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Inter-Arab Affairs

Health Ministers Council Agrees To Aid Iraq

JN0610114091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Tunis, 6 Oct (INA)—The Arab Health Ministers' Council has decided to help Iraq face the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people through the Arab Fund for Health Development.

In recommendations issued at the conclusion of its meetings here today, the Arab Health Ministers' Council asked the chairman of the Council's Executive Bureau to hold consultations with the Iraqi health minister and the Arab League secretary general to estimate the volume and quantity of the aid, and to discuss the means of providing this aid to the Iraqi people.

The Council also recommended that the chairman of the Council's Executive Bureau be assigned the task of making efforts to enable Iraq obtain its medicine and medical requirements.

Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id termed the decision of the Arab Health Ministers' Council as a good indicator of Arab action, an indicator reflecting a common sense of responsibility toward the Iraqi people's sufferings caused by the continuation of the unfair and illegal economic blockade.

In remarks to an INA correspondent in Tunis today commenting on the Council's decision, the health minister added that the fact that the chairman of the Council's Executive Bureau has been assigned the task of helping Iraq obtain medicines and medical requirements is an extremely important move, since we will be able from now on to speak on behalf of all Arab countries with the foreign agencies which ban our imports of medicine and medical requirements. Also, the Council chairman will help us in this regard, he noted.

The health minister affirmed that the Arab Health Ministers' Council meetings were successful. The Iraqi delegation's participation in the meetings, as well as the way it tackled the issues under discussion, contributed to the success of the conference.

The Arab health ministers unanimously endorsed a recommendation to aid Iraq using the Health Development Fund.

It is to be recalled that Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id led the Iraqi delegation to meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Health Ministers' Council which began yesterday. A number of Arab countries participated in the Council meetings.

Bisharah on GCC Attendance at Peace Conference

JN0310161491 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Oct 91 pp 1, 21

[Report on interview with 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] United Nations—'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has announced that he will participate as an observer in the peace conference that has been proposed for late October or early November, in a bid to emphasize the desire of the GCC member states to advance the Middle East peace process.

In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, the secretary general said his participation will not necessitate any change in position on the part of the GCC. His participation represents GCC recognition that the peace process should succeed. He stressed that the participation is a declaration by the GCC that its members hope for the success of the conference, which should be based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

Bisharah said this is the last chance to push the peace mechanism forward. [passage omitted]

Bisharah referred to the role of the GCC states following the liberation of Kuwait, saying that it is now focused on construction and the security of the states in the region. He emphasized that stability cannot be realized in the Gulf region unless there is regional understanding among the various countries. All aspects of Arab Gulf relations with Iran should be discussed at the meeting between the GCC and Iranian foreign ministers, to be held next March, with the aim of working out a framework that can be agreed upon. He stressed that there is no conflict between Gulf security at the regional and the Arab levels, and the international dimension of Gulf security. He said that when the Iraqi aggression took place against a sisterly state, international security was shaken all over the world.

Arab League Lebanon Committee, King Hassan Meet

LD0310091391 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II has received members of the three-man committee on the Lebanese issue, consisting of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, and Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, at his residence in New York.

The meeting took place in the presence of [words indistinct], Faris Buwayz, Lebanese foreign minister and leader of the Arab group, and the ambassadors of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, the Lebanese Republic, and the Algerian Republic at the UN Organization. The meeting was attended by his majesty's advisor Ahmed Reda Gudeira.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Peace Process

PM0410142091 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Oct 91 p 6

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem-based Arab Studies Center, by 'Ali Nun and Samir Nasif in London; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] You said two days ago that you and Dr. 'Ashrawi would go to the United States—in 48 hours' time—to meet with Secretary Baker. Why did the meeting not take place?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, contacts are currently being made with the United States to hold a meeting. No specific date has been set, and the matter is still under discussion until a date is set.

The Israelis are alarmed by the contacts taking place between us and Washington. They are now trying to exploit the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC] not only to hamper the peace process, but also to create an uncomfortable atmosphere in general.

[AL-HAYAH] Was a date not fixed beforehand for that meeting?

[Al-Husayni] There were expectations, but no date was set. We did not manage to hold the meeting in New York, but it might be held in Washington. The Americans do not want a political and media battle to occur now and to hamper their position regarding assurances (which is what the Israelis want). If we go there and meet with him (Baker) an uproar occurs, and if we do not meet with him the opposite happens. Israel will stir up a problem just for the sake of stirring up a problem. Baker indicates that he is currently facing an internal problem and prefers to settle it without our presence in the U.S.

[AL-HAYAH] Did you and Dr. 'Ashrawi go to Algiers?

[Al-Husayni] We cannot be in several places at the same time.

[AL-HAYAH] The anticipated meeting with Baker will take place after the PNC resolutions concerning resuming discussions on the U.S. letter of assurances are sent to you. What are your expectations?

[Al-Husayni] We expect positive results. There were some points in the assurances memorandum which required further clarification, and some requiring redrafting.

[AL-HAYAH] What exactly are these points?

[Al-Husayni] We expect positive views regarding the right to self-determination in view of the moderate PNC resolutions.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you expect the PNC resolutions to reflect positively on the clarifications required in the assurances memorandum?

[Al-Husayni] We do not claim that the PNC resolutions will change U.S. policy, but they will definitely change the the way in which the United States deals with the Palestinian issue. There are red lines in U.S. policy in the Middle East, but there are also some gaps through which progress can be achieved in the Palestinian issue.

[AL-HAYAH] There are Palestinian red lines, too. What are they?

[Al-Husayni] Palestinian representation is a Palestinian affair and we will in no way allow any Palestinian to be denied representation. We do not believe that Israel's position on this subject is based on logic and credibility. Since the beginning Israel has been trying to dictate conditions, and this undoubtedly obstructs the peace process.

[AL-HAYAH] Will an invitation be sent to the PLO to attend the peace conference?

[Al-Husayni] We see no obstacle to sending it directly to the PLO without the need to send it as an invitation to a joint Arab delegation.

[AL-HAYAH] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the day before yesterday that you—you and 'Ashrawi—would not participate in the peace conference because you do not represent anyone. Who do you consider qualified to represent the Palestinians, and what form will that representation take?

[Al-Husayni] Shamir should take care of the problems concerning his government, organize the Israeli delegation, and let us organize the Palestinian delegation.

[AL-HAYAH] What about the proposed representation formula?

[Al-Husayni] What is proposed now (by the United States) is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but this does not mean that it is the only option facing the Palestinians.

[AL-HAYAH] What about the Palestinian opposition?

[Al-Husayni] Palestinian opposition to the official Palestinian position has never been concerned with the form, but rather the substance. So if the conference's substance is clear as to how the Palestinians could obtain their legitimate rights, there will be no problem.

[AL-HAYAH] The PNC resolutions seem to have increased the severity of Shamir's crisis and that of his government. Do you expect him to force the pace by dissolving his government and calling for general elections—with all that this implies regarding the postponement of the peace conference?

[Al-Husayni] Indeed, Shamir has started making hints about general elections, but this time things will not be easy for him.

It is not certain that Shamir will win new elections. The changes on the Israeli scene and on the part of the Israeli public, caused by the Palestinian moves and the peace process, have weakened Shamir compared with his position a few months ago.

[AL-HAYAH] How much have they weakened him?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that U.S. investment in the peace process has reached the point that it is difficult for them (the Israelis) to pull out of it. Any further Israel provocations will harm Israel and force it to enter the peace conference under imposed conditions.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that a government under Shim'on Peres and the Labor Party could move further toward the peace conference than the Likud and Shamir, or do the two parties pursue two opposite lines but in the end reach the same political goal?

[Al-Husayni] There is a benefit for Israel in the peace process, but I believe there is a contradiction between Shamir and Peres in seeing this benefit. Yes, I believe that many issues can be resolved more easily with the Labor Party, but this is not necessarily the preferred option. The Likud—despite all the splits that it is suffering and its young and leading elements—has parties who are interested in arriving at a peaceful solution. At any rate, I can say that if the peace process does start, the solution will be within international legitimacy, and neither Peres nor Shamir will add anything to that. Engaging in the process itself will create an impetus toward the realization of international legitimacy.

[AL-HAYAH] You talk as though Israel's participation in the conference had already been settled.

[Al-Husayni] I believe that with each passing day Israel's participation in the conference appears more certain. Reports arriving from Israel and reflecting Israeli public opinion make it clear that the Israeli movement is toward participation in the conference, and not the opposite.

[AL-HAYAH] Did you try to hold a meeting with Shamir?

[Al-Husayni] No direct meeting was held with Shamir. Two years ago he sent someone to meet with us, and because of a certain matter the whole thing was cancelled. He then arrested me and expelled his envoy from the Likud.

[AL-HAYAH] Who was that person, and why did the process stop?

[Al-Husayni] The person is Moshe 'Amirav, a second-rank Likud leader. He is a prominent person and could have been made a minister; he belongs to the Roni Milo group. The discussion with him covered comprehensive views regarding the solution formula and the establishment of a confederation. He stopped at defense and foreign policy, which remained suspended.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that this scenario could be adopted at the peace conference?

[Al-Husayni] Logically, I believe that we will reach the same outcome in the coming dialogues, and in view of the laws that govern this world and international legitimacy, I believe that a solution to these problems can be reached.

[AL-HAYAH] You are more familiar than others with the U.S. stance toward the Palestinian people. How would you describe it in general, how far does it respond to the self-determination claim, and did this stance develop positively as a result of your meetings with Baker?

[Al-Husayni] The U.S. aim at present is for stability to prevail in the Middle East. The Americans know that without resolving the Palestinian issue, there will be no stability. In the past they believed that the Palestinians should pay the price for a solution, but after long discussions they discovered that the Palestinians have energies and capabilities that enable them to prevent matters from moving forward.

We managed to present the Palestinian position and Palestinian truth to Baker in a positive way. When he speaks about the Palestinian people's rights and sufferings, it differs in tone from the past.

[AL-HAYAH] Did the developments that took place at the Arab and international level, especially the Gulf war, help to change the U.S. stance toward you?

[Al-Husayni] Discussions with Baker started after the Gulf war. At that time the international-U.S.-Arab position led to the Palestinian people's severe isolation—we were speaking from a very dangerous position. I believe that we managed to break that isolation through dialogue and the wise PNC resolutions. It has become clear that it is out of the question to attach the Palestinians to another state as a minority or group of inhabitants.

[AL-HAYAH] Once again, what, in your view, led to the change in the U.S. position? For example, has Israel's cold war political role ended?

[Al-Husayni] It has been discovered that we are too weak to impose solutions, but have the ability to obstruct any solution. We possess a passive capability, and everyone—Americans, Europeans, and Israelis—knows that. I believe that it has become clear to the United States that without the Palestinians there will be no stability, and that the Palestinians are willing to be a factor of stability if conditions for their rights and interests are granted to them.

I also believe that Israel's past role as the policeman of the region ended after the breakup of the Soviet Union and the elimination of its threat to the region.

During the Gulf war it was discovered that Israel was not necessarily a strategic ally of the Americans; in fact, it was a strategic burden.

[AL-HAYAH] Have you reached the stage of trusting U.S. promises and pledges?

[Al-Husayni] It is not a matter of trusting or mistrusting U.S. pledges. It is a matter of understanding the nature of U.S. interests and absorbing what is possible and what is not possible at the American level.

[AL-HAYAH] Why do the Palestinians insist, more than anyone else, on holding a summit meeting for the Arab frontline states?

[Al-Husayni] Because I believe that if the Arab states respond to the Palestinian demand to hold a five-way meeting, and to more contacts with the Americans, it will be in the interests of all the Arab states. We discuss the details of matters more than any of the other participants.

[AL-HAYAH] Is what is being proposed to you now the maximum possible?

[Al-Husayni] It is not the maximum possible. We have demands, expectations, and aims that we are struggling to attain. If the conference fails, it will not be the Palestinians' or the Arabs' fault, but Israel's. If it fails because of Israel, the United States could respond in the United Nations and the Security Council. This might start with appeals and go further.

[AL-HAYAH] What would happen if you—you and Dr. 'Ashrawi—return to Jerusalem and the Israelis prove that you were in Algeria? What, for example, would the U.S. position be on your arrest?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the U.S. position would be very harsh toward the Israelis. In such an event, there is a risk that the peace process would be halted. Then it would be necessary to appoint new interlocutors. That would be difficult because it depends on the PLO's acceptance of this, and here the PLO's position would be stronger than in the past.

[AL-HAYAH] When and where will the conference be convened?

[Al-Husayni] It will be convened this year, either in the Netherlands or Oslo. The invitations will be sent in the last week of October. We are trying to ensure that an invitation is sent to the PLO. It might be addressed to the "Palestinian side."

[AL-HAYAH] Are you satisfied with your role so far?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I am satisfied; if I were dissatisfied for a single moment with something I had done, I would not have continued.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you see the PNC resolutions having any negative impact on Palestinian national unity?

[Al-Husayni] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], for example, can only oppose the political process from an ideological angle; but also ideologically, no Palestinian can reject the possibility of Israel's withdrawal from Jerusalem, al-Aqsa Mosque, and the holy lands. So I believe that their opposition will be theoretical rather than practical. They will not embark on any action or measure that would obstruct the process. They cannot defend the continuation of Israel's occupation of al-Aqsa Mosque.

[AL-HAYAH] Has the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories ended?

[Al-Husayni] No. The intifadah has not ended. As I said long ago, it is not a military movement; it is an intellectual, rational movement with an aim, among others, of changing Palestinian, Israeli, Arab, and international public opinion. I believe that the intifadah has played that role very successfully. At one stage it appeared as though it had failed, but we now say that we are at the peak of our success as a result of the intifadah, especially following the PNC resolutions. The intifadah has affected the Israeli position, the U.S. position, and Arab public opinion.

'Arafat, Others on Middle East Conference

LD0510102691 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1937 GMT 4 Oct 91

["The Event" program presented by Madani Ameur, with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Zuhdi al-Tarazi, advisor to 'Arafat on UN affairs—live; 'Arafat appears in the studio with Ameur, while al-Masri, 'Abd-al-Majid, and al-Tarazi appear via satellite link from Amman, New York, and an unspecified location, respectively]

[Excerpts] [Ameur] Ladies and gentlemen, honorable viewers in Algeria and brothers in the Arab homeland, please accept my sincere Arab greetings, and welcome to the program "The Event." In this first edition it is our honor to discuss one of the complex outstanding issues in the international arena—and the Arab arena in particular—in view of the changes this issue could bring about. The issue is the international peace conference which could be held at this month's end.

It is also our honor to discuss this issue in the presence of his excellency president Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, whom we welcome to this program. We are also honored to welcome, live from Amman, His Excellency Tahir al-Masri, the Jordanian prime minister. The program "The Event" will also interview Mr. 'Ismat Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, from New York. The program apologizes because it also tried to involve the main party which called for this conference, namely the United States. Algerian Television tried to interview Mr. James Baker, or one of his aides in charge of Middle East affairs, but the request was

refused. The program, and through them Algerian Television, also tried to interview UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in order to find out about the role of the United Nations, and opportunities offered to it at this conference. The reply, however, was that this conference had not given a place to the United Nations. Consequently, Mr. Perez de Cuellar also refrained from talking about the subject.

In any case, we start with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, we begin where you ended. At the Palestine National Council [PNC] you ended with a decision to go to the international conference....

['Arafat, interrupting] We agreed on the principle to accept participation in the international conference. It is still a principle. The final decision must be made by the Central Council.

[Ameur] Indeed. The question now is when; how; and who, from the Palestinians, will attend this conference.

['Arafat] First of all, when; we do not know when. At my last meeting with the Soviet envoy, who conveyed to me a letter from the Soviet leadership, he informed me that there has not been any agreement yet over the three following points: the date, the venue, and the invitation; in other words, the date and venue of the conference, and the text of the invitation which will be sent out. The cochairmen of the conference have reached no agreement on these three points.

[Ameur] Has the Palestinian side been informed about the preparations under way to convene the conference? It seems impossible to invite the Palestinians at the last moment, when they do not know anything about the proposed talks.

['Arafat] A dialogue is under way between a number of brothers from inside the occupied territories who agreed to meet with Mr. Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, and whom we consider the interlocutors between the U.S. Administration and our leadership. They have yet to furnish us with the full details; they have only furnished some of the details.

[Ameur] Are there any clues? Is there any hint of the framework of a solution?

['Arafat] Through these brothers we have submitted a clear paper to Mr. Baker. The paper includes the Palestinian demands based upon Palestinian political national principles. We have received some replies; however, the paper as a whole has yet to be discussed in detail.

[Ameur] We would like to ask His Excellency Tahir al-Masri, the Jordanian prime minister, given Jordan's important role in this process, whether the frontline states have received any details about the proposed solution?

[Al-Masri] Yes. There are some details which have been examined by all sides; however, as his excellency president 'Arafat said, there are a number of issues which have yet to be agreed upon by Jordan and among the Palestinians. Preparations for the conference have progressed in a clearer manner than ever before, however, but nothing final has been reached. Of course, the situation of the Palestinians is not exactly like the Jordanian one, as the Palestinian problem is more complicated, and therefore merits more attention. Assurances and guarantees should be given to the Palestinian side in a clear manner.

[Ameur] Let us now ask Mr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who is in New York, whether there is any progress in the proposed peace process, given the fact that the Arab League has been coordinating all moves between the frontline states and the rest of the Arab countries.

['Abd-al-Majid] First of all, I am very happy to take part in this program, and I hope that this interview will lead to clarifications on the issue of the international conference.

[Ameur] Well, we will be returning to Mr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid shortly. President Yasir 'Arafat, do you believe in the seriousness of the peace process? In other words, is there anything attracting you to such a conference? Furthermore, given the fact that the United Nations has not been informed, and that no role has been given to it, what is attracting you to such a conference?

['Arafat] No, regrettably, the Israeli condition from the start has been to exclude the United Nations, and the resolution issued by the UN says: The international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent members. This has been totally excluded, and the Israelis made a condition that the conference be a regional one. Of course, the Arab countries rejected it, and we also rejected it. They reached an agreement to call it a peace conference to be attended by a silent representative of the United Nations, the U.S. and Soviet cochairmen of the conference, and the European side as an observer only.

But here I make an important point: What is taking place is in the Palestinian arena. It is entirely impossible for the PLO to remain an onlooker because the Palestinian people will have to live with its results. If we stand as onlookers, this would mean that we had betrayed the trust put in us by the Palestinian people. We cannot stand as onlookers to a conference discussing our Palestinian cause.

[Ameur] Mr. President, within this context there is a difference now, even in the Arab vision; there are those who say that the United Nations supervises, or has a role in this conference, while others deny this. Mr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has something to say on this matter. Mr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid:

['Abd-al-Majid] I would like, if you will allow me, to correct some of what was said—especially that this international conference is not subject to, or backed by, UN resolutions. The truth is totally the opposite of this. At the latest meeting of the Council of Arab foreign ministers, on 12 September in Cairo, it was agreed to welcome efforts aimed at holding the international peace conference—and I am here quoting the text of the resolution issued unanimously—in order to achieve a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestinian problem, on the basis of the principles of international legitimacy and related UN resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The text of the resolution includes three paragraphs, and they are, in brief: The first paragraph consolidates the attitudes of the Arab parties directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem during all the stages of the peace process. It backs their attitudes politically, in the information field and in all the other fields, in order to achieve the desired just solution. The second paragraph—in my opinion the most important of the resolution—is the call on the five Arab parties directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem—Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Egypt—to coordinate and consult among themselves to find a unified attitude with the aim of achieving a just and comprehensive peace backed by international legitimacy and the related UN resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 242, issued in 1967, and Resolution 338, issued in 1973. The last paragraph of this important resolution entrusts the Arab League secretary general to: follow up Arab contacts; coordinate stands backing efforts towards a peaceful, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem, based, once again, on related UN resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy; and inform the Council of the results of the secretary general's consultations.

The conference is based on negotiations, and negotiations assume differences in position, but not that a party that has a certain position will not negotiate with others. So the conference, as I have mentioned, is based on the related UN resolutions. Then Resolutions 242 and 338 are the main UN resolutions which were approved by all the parties, including the Palestinian side, which is the principal side concerned. I want to recall what took place at the meeting of the PNC in Algiers, at the 19th session, which preceded the session held in Algiers a few days ago. At the 19th session, the PNC accepted Resolutions 242 and 338 for the first time, especially Resolution 242 issued in 1967. This means that the PLO accepted Resolution 242 after 21 years [word indistinct] in 1989.

Today we are talking about the Arab League Council's unanimous decision, at ministerial level, in Cairo on 12 September—three weeks ago—to welcome the international peace conference, and [word indistinct] the United Nations, and for that conference to be based on the relevant UN resolutions.

[Ameur] Therefore we asked Zuhdi al-Tarazi, former PLO representative at the United Nations and president Yasir 'Arafat's adviser on UN affairs, about this misunderstanding on the participation of the United Nations, or the role given to the United Nations at the conference. Let us listen to him.

[Al-Tarazi] The Palestinian issue was created by British colonialism, and it was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1947, when it decided to partition Palestine. This is the basis of international responsibility for this issue. Consequently, this responsibility must be resolved within the framework that created it. It was decided a few years ago to create an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to resolve this issue. The UN General Assembly laid down the broad outlines for that conference, and gained 151 votes from the international community. International law and legitimacy must be the basis for securing the process and a comprehensive solution. Other plans ignore: one, the Palestinian people as a people; two, the Palestinian people's right to be represented; three, the Palestinian people's right to exercise their right of self-determination and the establishment of their state; and four—and this is very dangerous—the U.S. plan fundamentally ignores the role of the United Nations in this plan. Consequently, the United States wants to be the organizer and supervisor of this, forgetting and ignoring the Palestinian people and their role in the achievement of peace. The international community has asked the Security Council, through the General Assembly, to facilitate the convening of the international conference by inviting the participation of the states directly concerned with this situation. It specified them as follows: the PLO, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. This is how the international community specified the parties directly concerned.

[Ameur] Mr. President, I will come back to you. The matter, therefore, is not clear.

['Arafat] If you will allow me, I would like to remind my brother the secretary general, His Excellency 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, that the PLO accepted in principle during talks we held with the brothers in Egypt in 1977, and with the Soviet Union—specifically with Comrade Gromyko—the principle of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis of which the Geneva conference was convened. We were supposed to attend as a joint Arab delegation, convened. We were supposed to attend as a joint Arab delegation. I have to point out that in 1977 the Soviet-Egyptian statement signed by Isma'il Fahmi and Vance [as heard] included—for the first time—joint Arab delegation with PLO representation. [previous six words quoted in English] That means a joint Arab delegation with a low-level PLO participation—non-Executive Committee members. At that time we were supposed to go to Geneva as a joint Arab delegation. I would like to recall the Soviet-U.S. statement between Vance and Gromyko, which mentioned the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people for

the first time, and mentioned the representatives of the Palestinian people for the first time.

I wanted to correct this, because matters later developed into a U.S. retreat through the statement made by Moshe Dayan and Vance. Still later, the freezing of the Geneva conference occurred, and the Egyptian-Camp David attempts.

[Ameur] Mr. President, we are very interested in knowing whether the Arab stance has hardened and whether there are specific paths followed, or if everyone is still looking for a fringe, peripheral settlement. We have asked 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid whether the time has indeed come, whether the phase is suitable and decisive for an Arab conference. We await his reply.

['Abd-al-Majid] [words indistinct] I believe that the phase has fully ripened, particularly after the issuance of the important statement I pointed out, which I regard as a step in the right direction. The evidence of this is that the PNC, which concluded its meetings in Algiers a few days ago, welcomed the international conference; and it is the real side, because it is directly concerned with the issue. Furthermore, we have noticed seriousness in the U.S. Administration's stance. President Bush talked about the principle of exchanging land for peace, which is an important and leading principle. I hope that the consequences of the positive Palestinian stance which emerged at the Algiers meeting will facilitate a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue as before, and preparations for the convening of an international conference would commence. I believe that all Arab countries support it now, and the world is saying that this is an opportunity for peace and stability in the Middle East.

[Ameur] Mr. President, I return to you again. We are at a time which does not tolerate prevarication. Arab peoples want to see things clearly. Arab peoples, even the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples, want to go to the conference aware of all the intricacies, so that there will not be the possibility of anyone saying that we have been again lead to a betrayal or deception. In your opinion, have things reached, as I said a short while ago, a clear phase? Will the Arabs go to the conference aware of the consequences, particularly as Arabs may now go to an international conference; but the results that the conference may lead to....?

['Arafat, interrupting] There is a very important point which we must point out. Until now the U.S. Administration has not recognized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is a principal point. Consequently, Palestinian representation is obscure, and has not been decided as yet. Another point is Jerusalem, in terms of representation and as an issue. I do not believe that under any circumstances an Arab—Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, or Christian—would accept the exclusion of the Jerusalem issue. Until now this issue has not been clear enough to provide comfort to any Arab negotiator. We must remember that in 1973, when the 1973 war took place, the issue of Jerusalem was one of the main issues discussed at that time. When King Faysal, may God have mercy on his soul, was assassinated, I called him the martyr of Jerusalem, because he was committed to the idea that the main point in any action after the 1973 war would be the point of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

We insist, as Palestinians and Arabs, that the settlements must be stopped. This demon is swallowing up Arab and Palestinian land. Settlement is still taking place in Lebanese territories. The Falashas have been settled in a region which used to be called Fatah land [previous phrase in English], the land of Fatah, in the Golan, the West Bank, and Gaza, with the focus on Jerusalem.

A short while ago I heard from Algerian Radio that it has been decided to build 4,000 more houses around Jerusalem. This is in addition to those already built. Sharon's plan is to house 1 million displaced Soviet emigrants. I say here that they were displaced [muhajjarin]; they were forced to emigrate to Palestine. If there were any human rights in the matter, any Jew who wanted to leave the Soviet Union should have the right to leave for the United States, Canada, South Africa, Europe, or Australia. But he is being forced to emigrate against the principles of human rights stipulated in the Helsinki Conference. He does not even travel using a passport, but by using laissez-passer which expires when he reaches Israel.

[Ameur] Mr. President, if matters are not clear for Palestinians, if the way is not clear for Palestinians, can you tell us frankly whether they will be going to the conference or not?

['Arafat] Without clarification we cannot attend, because we cannot betray the trust; we consider ourselves the guardians of the holy mosque. This intifadah, which has been going on for the fourth year, claiming thousands of martyrs, hundreds of thousands of wounded people, and tens of thousands of prisoners—in addition to mine-ravages, destroyed houses, and aggression against Muslim and Christian sanctities—are not all in vain. We are the guardians of the holy mosque. It is not possible, and I am convinced that my brothers the Arabs have the same stance as the Palestinian delegation's stance.

[Ameur] Mr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that he feared the existence of side contacts by parties which are detrimental to solving the main problem of the Middle East: the Palestinian one.

['Arafat] As my brother 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out when he said that there was a meeting, or a decision, a decision at the level of the Arab foreign ministers, which had been preceded by the ministerial meeting of Muslim foreign ministers as well as the nonaligned ministerial meeting in Ghana, they all affirmed Palestinian rights and the Arab right to Jerusalem, as does the Palestinian and Arab principled stance.

We are thankful to our brothers the ministers of foreign affairs, who met on the sidelines of the Arab League

ministerial meeting which was held in Cairo on 16 September. Their meeting was an initial one to start coordination between the five countries which are the frontline states: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. This requires, however, continued and intensive meetings at all levels. We have our own coordination with our brothers in Egypt, of which we are proud, and our own coordination with our brothers in Jordan, of which we are also proud. Today there is a Palestinian representation in Jordan; we have also set up a permanent Palestinian-Jordanian technical committee. We have contacted our brothers in Syria twice to coordinate with them at an official level, which my brother, the Syrian foreign minister, mentioned when he said a summit conference of Arab frontline states must be convened.

[Ameur] This news—can you confirm it? I mean the news of the probability of convening a summit conference of the five frontline states?

['Arafat] As my brother His Excellency the Prime Minister of Jordan Abu-Nash'at said, this is a Palestinian and Jordanian request and has been approved by the brothers in Egypt. Now what has been said by my brother Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, gives reassurance; this means that the majority of parties have agreed. We should not go to the conference while we are parties; we should go as one party. This is a political, national, and pan-Arab responsibility. Confronting the battle and the challenge ahead means: To be or not to be.

[Ameur] Mr. Tahir al-Masri, the prime minister of Jordan: Do you confirm the news of the probability of a summit conference of the five frontline states before going to the international conference?

[Al-Masri] It is possible that the PLO submitted this proposal a few weeks ago. Jordan immediately agreed on the principle, importance, and necessity of convening a meeting at a high level of the frontline states. This was not done at the required speed, but it appears now that the importance of such a meeting has been recognized. It is logical that the Arabs should attempt to coordinate their stances and reach an agreement. I want to add that the Arab constants and aims at the conference are to a great extent similar; perhaps these are identical, and not only similar. Therefore, the question of coordination is a logical and fundamental matter, and the conference and the importance of convening it is something which has been agreed upon by all the Arab sides. But we should go to reach agreement on something specific: we should get conditions. Brother Abu-'Ammar referred to some differences. But we should also place before the Arab citizen the required information, so that he can decide why we should go or not go. As a matter of fact, there are several specific issues; for example, we as Arabs used to say that we have weapons in our hands: the oil weapon, the weapon of Arab funds, the weapon of Arab solidarity, the weapon of the other camp—the eastern camp which used to back the Arab nation; but these weapons, I regret to say, have come to an end, altogether and in a rapid manner.

Therefore, the weapons which we used to claim were in our hands have, to a great extent, gone. On the other hand there is the question of the settlements, of emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel—and that of the Soviet Union supplying Israel with the human factor, and the United States supplying Israel with the financial factor, the dollar—and the two factors jointly combining to form a cancerous, rapidly progressing settlement in the occupied territories. Now, what should we, as Arabs, do in the absence of these weapons, in the absence of equality, and in the face of this danger of settlement threatening the occupied Arab territories?

We should come forward with something in order to salvage these territories, which are still in the possession or occupation of Israel. Proceeding from this, we believe that we cannot stand idly by with respect to all these dangers without doing anything. We will go to the conference—if we go—armed with international legitimacy and the necessity of demanding from the international community that it do what it can, according to the UN Charter, to return the occupied territories. We are not going to sign a blank check without discussion; we are going to demand and obtain Palestinian and Arab rights, and stress the necessity of ending the Israeli occupation and restoring Arab and Palestinian sovereignty over the occupied territories. This is the aim.

If we succeed, and manage through our solidarity and with the understanding of the international community, well and good; we will be able to stop the danger then. If we cannot realize such aims, then there is no eternal connection between us and the conference. This is the Jordanian point of view on the issue. Add to this the fact that we should tell Algerian and Arab television viewers that Arab coordination is required, and that this coordination is very strong between Jordan and the PLO. As brother Abu-'Ammar said, there are committees which are working; even an hour ago we were meeting for the sake of coordination. The highest level of coordination between the Arab parties is between the PLO and Jordan. As I have said, the common denominators are firm and many; we have the same vision; we have the same constants. If this happens between all Arab parties, there will be a stronger Arab stance and understanding by the international community.

[Ameur] Mr. Tahir al-Masri, you are talking about international legitimacy and your participation, as well as the participation of the PLO and the frontline states, in a conference supervised by the United Nations, or guaranteed by international legitimacy. What is being talked about now is that the idea began with an international conference, but has now become a regional gathering. This framework takes the international plan—that settlement may take place, but outside the framework of international legitimacy—outside the UN framework. What have you got to say about this?

[Al-Masri] As a matter of fact, right from the very beginning we preferred that an international conference be convened in the manner which we used to call for, a conference under the auspices of the United Nations, and with the attendance of the five permanent member-states of the Security Council and the parties concerned. But as a result of the Gulf crisis and the changing of the international equations, and what happened within the socialist camp and the Soviet Union, these ideas changed, and we were unable—like Jordan, and I do not believe that the PLO was able either—to change the equation which was put forward. During Baker's continous visits we used to insist on the presence of a stronger representation of the United Nations, and that the five permanent member-states should be present. But this is the situation now. We should also know that we go to the conference to implement international legitimacy, and to implement Resolution 242; any agreement inside the conference should be referred to the United Nations for approval, perhaps. The Palestinians and Jordan will demand, at some stage, a sort of a UN presence in the occupied territories during the negotiations. The UN is not absent in the manner we believe. It would have been better had there been stronger UN auspices or presence, but the United Nations is not absent. There are, as we have said, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the EC chairmanship, with the United Nations as an observer.

[Ameur] Mr. President, dialogue stopped between the PLO and the Americans following the incident which took place on the beach; where do the meetings between Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan al-Ashrawi, and Baker exactly place Palestinian rights, or how do they define the form of these rights?

['Arafat] This is clear: It has been defined by international legitimacy and Arab legitimacy, as well as the legitimacy of the nonaligned states in their resolutions, and Islamic legitimacy throughout the Islamic summits—the realization of the national political rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to its homeland, its right to self-determination, and its right to establish its independent state and its capital Jerusalem. Our PNC, throughout its sessions since 1983 and up to the present time, has approved the confederation—the distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, in order to attain a confederation between the states of Jordan and Palestine according to the free will and choice of the two fraternal peoples. These are rights, they are clear. There is no ambiguity in our rights.

[Ameur] How does the U.S. side define these rights? How did Baker throughout his meetings, or in his dialogue with the Palestinians, define the Palestinian rights? In what form did he put it?

['Arafat] Let me say, for example, that he recognized that Jerusalem is an occupied territory. At the beginning of President Bush's initiative, he referred to the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians. At the last meeting between President Bush and His Majesty King Hassan, President Bush referred, when he came out, for the first time to the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, instead of the Palestinians. [words indistinct] He then referred to the UN resolutions. Therefore, as long as we are called a people, a people have land and rights recognized by the UN and international legitimacy.

But until now they have avoided mentioning the right to self-determination. Moreover, they say: We cannot agree to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. We told them: Our PNC has suggested a Palestinian state, and is prepared to establish a Palestinian-Jordanian state. Regrettably, until now the U.S. Administration has not given a satisfactory answer. Regrettably, despite all the superficial differences between the U.S. Administration and the Israelis regarding the 10 billion dollars, the Israeli conditions until this moment—as my brother His Excellency the Prime Minister Abu-Nash'at said—are the fundamental conditions they want to impose on us.

We should be clear and frank. The U.S. delegation told our delegation at one of the meetings that Iraq is not the only one that was defeated. You Arabs have all been defeated. Regrettably, the delegation added that there are Israeli conditions which you should comply with. I tell them, in the name of the Palestinian people and in the name of the Arab masses: No. We will not submit, and will not accept Israeli conditions under any circumstances.

[Ameur] Mr. President, what you are saying is very important, but the Israelis now, the enemy who is directly in confrontation with you....today, for example, Shamir is saying: We are searching for peace, but without giving anything in return—we will not give up the land in return for this peace. The American project says: land for peace; the Palestinian side says: land and sovereignty. We are only days away from the conference, and these issues have not been decided yet.

['Arafat] More than this, this issue is a challenge to me; it is an issue to be considered by President Bush. Is there a single yardstick for the realization of international legitimacy in the Gulf and Palestine? In the Gulf he deployed armies, and the armada and the fleets and the aircraft, in order to implement international legitimacy. What will he do to implement international legitimacy in Palestine? Or does international legitimacy have two sides, and is it gauged by two yardsticks? Is international legitimacy one thing in the Gulf, and something else in Palestine? Is international legitimacy in the Baltic states one thing, and in Palestine something else? We do not ask for more than the implementation of international legitimacy.

More than that, I ask President Bush to implement his initiative which says land for peace, and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, which means the withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967. U.S. officials have said that these

territories include Jerusalem, as it has been occupied, as part of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. Let him implement these. This is a challenge to him; it is a challenge to the U.S. Administration. It is a challenge to President Bush. It is a challenge to the cochairman of the conference, the Soviet Union.

This challenge is not put to me. This challenge is for the U.S. Administration. This is a challenge for President Bush. This is a challenge for the other chairman of the conference, the USSR. This is a challenge for the European states. This is a challenge for the international community. Is there a jungle law, or is there an international law governing matters and international resolutions? Shamir must know that his nervousness and spasms will be of no use. Let him remember that this land is Arab, and that Jerusalem will be the capital of the Palestinian state sooner or later. He must know that the Arabs were not defeated.

[Ameur] Your Excellency Mr. President, should we understand from this that the military option remains with relation to the Palestinian problem?

['Arafat] I want to tell you something. It is true, as my brother his excellency the Jordanian prime minister has said, that conditions after the Gulf war have changed, that the other axis has disappeared, and that there remains but one superpower. It is true that there is now one axis....

[Ameur] A world government...

['Arafat] World, but the whole world must know that no one forsakes his land, honor, and sanctities. We, the Palestinians, will not forsake any one of them. I want to say something. Any state and any nation that loses its military option does not deserve to live.

[Ameur] Your Excellency Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri....

['Arafat, interrupting] This does not mean that we do not support peace, but any state that loses its military option in the face of this continuing Israeli threat, which claims that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Greater Israel. Greater does not mean the West Bank and Gaza; Greater Israel means, as I have made clear in one of my interviews, here at this conference, from the Nile to the Euphrates. Their map includes the whole of Palestine, the whole of Lebanon, the whole of Jordan, half of Syria, two thirds of Iraq, a third of Saudi Arabia, and half of Sinai.

[Ameur] Do you believe, Mr. President, while we are at the gates of the international peace conference, that the Arab governments are aware of this danger?

['Arafat] Yes, and it was raised at all the Arab summit conferences.

[Ameur] But the Arab summits—forgive me, until now we have been reading only the drafted communiques. Is there serious action, as opposed to those drafted communiques, in preparation for this challenge?

['Arafat] This is supposed to be the case. On this occasion I want to say: Will the Arabs, whether they have money or influence, leave the ring [tawq] states and the Palestinian delegation on their own, without any support, without piling up, intensifying, and amassing what remains of Arab strength to support it, to support the Arab negotiator, who will go to negotiate with this Israeli ghoul? Will they leave it like this?

[Ameur] Mr. President....

['Arafat] This is a responsibility shouldered by every Arab ruler, by every Arab leader, by the whole Arab nation and all the Arab peoples.

[Ameur] Before this, are there Arab guarantees for you while you are heading to this conference, before we talk about American or other guarantees? Are there Arab guarantees of support?

['Arafat] There are resolutions. As to guarantees, I must be frank in front of this Arab nation: There are no guarantees, there are only resolutions. We hope to translate these resolutions into guarantees.

[Ameur] Mr. Tahir al-Masri, journalists and others talk about the idea of joint representation. Will this delegation be represented under the capacity of Jordan or what form will this representation take?

[al-Masri] If agreement is reached, the joint delegation will be an umbrella, and under the umbrella there will be a Jordanian delegation and a Palestinian delegation. The Jordanian delegation will speak for the Jordanian dimension and the Palestinian delegation will speak for the Palestinian dimension. But by the nature of the relationship, by nature of the future relationship, and by nature of the geography and the whole relations between Palestine and Jordan, there must also be a connection [tarabutt] without the existance of any interference in the issues pertaining to the Palestinian course. But also allow me to comment on some of what was said in the past few minutes. The Arabs will not—at least Jordan, and I am confident that the Palestinians will not—go to the conference to discuss the Israeli conditions. If we sat down or decided that these Israeli conditions are the ones that will decide whether we go or not go to the conference, then there will be no settlement and there will be no conference. We go to achieve the Arab objectives and the achievement of international legitimacy. Now, Shamir is alone. In this world, who says that we shall exchange peace for peace.

In other words, there is nothing to be taken, neither by the Palestinians nor by the Arabs. Who agrees with Shamir in this talk? I believe no one. The Soviet Union, the United States, Europe, and the remaining states of the world say that Resolution 242 means land for peace. This means that the Palestinian territories are occupied territories and Israel must withdraw from them. The

issue of land for peace: land means the return of Arab and Palestinian sovereignty over Arab and Palestinian land. If I become a master on this land and I have full sovereignty, I can do what I want, whether to set up my state or decide any other thing. Therefore, if we are able....[changes thought] And there is an American undertaking made to Jordan, the Palestinians, and I believe to the other Arab states that the U.S. understanding of the conference is the exchange of land for peace and certainly the Soviet Union also supports this.

Thus we go to the conference, it is true, not in an equitable situation, but backed by many things and many concepts, not only from the Arab side, but also from the important and influential sides who make the decisions in this world.

[Ameur] Land for peace: Is it land with sovereignty or without sovereignty?

[al-Masri] It can only be with sovereignty. In the first place, when the Americans agree to the principle of a confederal union between Jordan and Palestine: What does this mean? Jordan is an independent country with sovereignty over its land. When it unites with another land, Palestine, there must be Palestinian sovereignty over the land and Arab sovereignty, because it is not conceivable for us to unite with a land that has no sovereignty, and its people have no sovereignty. Therefore, land and sovereignty are connected and I believe this is the meaning of the concept of land for peace.

[Ameur] Mr. President, the Palestinian sides which advocate nonattendance at the conference are Hamas, the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], and some Palestinian detachments. What do you say to them?

['Arafat] No, not this way. There are some who say: Let us go; there are others who do not believe that the objective circumstances are available for the Arabs to attain their rights. But all these have pledged commitment; we are a democratic body in which views interact. The majority respect the views of the minority and then the minority comply with the views of the majority. The fundamental point, as I said at the beginning, is: Shall we allow the enemy to act freely in our arena while we stand idly by? No, we cannot.

[Ameur] Mr. President, the masses in the occupied territories are now seeing you directly on TV via Jordanian Television. What would you like to say to the children of the stones who are dealing with your enemy with weapons?

['Arafat] I call them the new [word indistinct]. I would like to tell them that we have a date with dawn; we have a date to keep with victory. We have a date to keep so that one cub of these cubs or a flower of these flowers will raise the Palestinian flag over the walls of Jerusalem and the churches and minarets of Jerusalem—the first qiblah and the third holy place—the place to which Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him, went in his flight, and the cradle of Jesus, may peace be upon him. Let us enter the mosque as they entered it for the first time—this is God's promise; God does not break His promise.

[Ameur] Mr. Tahir al-Masri, we thank you for your participation in this program and thank you for the answers you have given us out of your desire to enlighten the Arab viewer so that he may know and realize the political action being taken by the leaders or the politicians and know in which direction he is proceeding. Thank you for your participation.

[al-Masri] Thank you, brother.

['Arafat] Together always until we pray in Jerusalem, Abu Nash'at, God willing.

[al-Masri] God willing, brother Abu-'Ammar; soon, God willing. We will pray together.

[Ameur] Mr. President, we thank you for your participation which we think was very necessary so that the Arab citizen—as I said to his excellency the Jordanian prime minister—may know where he is proceeding. It is essential that the masses know; they should know the extent of the commitment that may develop through a conference such as this. We thank you once again for this dialogue and wish to meet you again in another program, God willing, and in better circumstances. Thank you.

'Arafat Adviser on 'Secret' Talks With U.S.

NC0510115891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that a meeting involving Palestinian, Israeli, and Arab figures will be held in Cairo in November at the invitation of Egypt and the EC, which will take part in this meeting. Sha'th, however, did not mention if the meeting is linked to the peace conference scheduled to be held at the end of October.

Sha'th added that an Egyptian-brokered meeting with Israeli politicians was held in July in Cairo, but he did not reveal the names of the Israeli participants. He disclosed that a secret dialogue had taken place between the PLO and the United States and that this dialogue soon will be made public. Sha'th noted that during his meeting with Moroccan King Hassan II last week, President Bush received a message from Yasir 'Arafat reiterating the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He said that the PLO will not announce the names of the Palestinian delegation members before an agreement on the criteria for selection is reached between Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Fatah Official on 'Confederation' With Jordan

JN0710081891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Oct 91 p 4

[Interview with Salim-al-Za'nun, alias Abu-al-Adib, member of Fatah Central Committee and deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council, by Nabil 'Amr; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] ['Amr] Have the Americans shown understanding of Palestinian demands—the right to repatriation, self-determination, representation, and the representation of Jerusalem?

[Al-Za'nun] The Americans understand these demands, but they consider themselves mediators who approximate conflicting views. That is why they are still incapable of imposing the convictions that Baker reached through his meetings with our delegation comprising Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi. We do not feel that the United States is acting as forcefully as befits the sole major world power created by recent international developments. They are still using double standards.

['Amr] Are you convinced, in principle, that the peace conference will convene?

[Al-Za'nun] I think it will. The United States believes it is a test to the new world order which was first invented after World War II. Therefore, the United States is eager to see the conference convene. The United States prefers to see the conference convene and fail rather than not convene at all.

['Amr] Do you think the PLO will be invited?

[Al-Za'nun] Presently, the United States still believes in inviting a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The United States is trying to defeat the Israeli idea that calls for inviting a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories to be part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

['Amr] What do you think of these proposals?

[Al-Za'nun] Our basic choice is an independent delegation, but we are not against a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if this is agreed on in advance so as to spare us any negative effects. But we should not make the United States or Israel think that the joint delegation reflects a Palestinian abandonment of the independent state. The United States and Israel oppose an independent Palestinian delegation because it preannounces the independent state that was declared in 1988, which is ready for confederation with Jordan. When we are forced to be represented by Palestinians from inside the occupied territories, and not through the PLO, this means that Israel wants the ceiling of Palestinian demands to be administrative self-rule.

['Amr] If the only choice is the joint delegation, will this mean reviving the 11 February 1985 agreement?

[Al-Za'nun] New circumstances in Jordan prevented the revival of this agreement, as we proposed. Democracy in Jordan requires that the Jordanian parliament endorse this agreement, similar to its endorsement by the 16th session of the Palestine National Council. We assert that the future relationship with Jordan is confederation, under one presidency.

['Amr] Do we understand from this that the presidency will go to Jordan?

[Al-Za'nun] We do not mind Jordan having the presidency. [passage omitted]

Revolutionary Council Condemns PNC on Conference

LD0410171191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] The Fatah-Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has condemned the recent decision of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to send a representative on behalf of the Palestinians to the Middle East peace conference. Fatah leader Walid Khalid, in a meeting yesterday with the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, also stressed the need to expand the Palestine Islamic uprising within the occupied territories.

Israeli Reaction to PNC Decisions Analyzed

TA0410143591 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 1 Oct 91 p 12

[Article by AL-FAJR editor Radi al-Jara'i: "The Israeli Impasse in Light of the PNC Decisions"]

[Text] The decisions by the Palestine National Council [PNC] at its 20th session were disappointing to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He had always waited for the "no" to the peace conference to come from the Palestinian side. Sometimes he wished to put the "no" in the Palestinians' mouths so that he could shout that the Palestinians are terrorists who do not want peace. The PNC decided by an overwhelming majority to go to the peace conference, and despite the PNC's emphasis on Palestinian principles, it was flexible in dealing with the procedural obstacles that Israel had tried to raise. The PNC decided to authorize the PLO Executive Committee to draft a formula for the participation of the Palestinian delegation—in other words the possibility of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—and for the PLO to choose the Palestinian delegation without announcing it.

Yitzhaq Shamir, who was wagering that the rejection would come from the Palestinian side, was pushed into a corner by the PNC decisions. Therefore, he has begun looking for a line of retreat for which he has been planning since talk about the peace process began. Before the end of the Gulf war, Shamir brought the extreme right-wing parties, like Moledet and Tzomet, into the

government with the full knowledge that these parties, along with Tehiya, will withdraw from the government should Israel go to any kind of peace conference. These parties are well-known for their total hostility toward peace and their racist tendencies. Shamir has been holding this card for such a moment.

From the outset, Israel's agreement to attend the peace conference was tactical. Shamir was wagering on gaining time so that the U.S. election campaign would begin, the U.S. Administration would be preoccupied, and the peace conference would not be convened. The reason for this tactic is that the Israeli Government is seeking a continuation of the status quo that allows it to continue building new settlements in the occupied territories, alter the demographic equation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and create new facts on the ground within the context of the policy of fait accompli. Convocation of the peace conference contradicts the expansionist settlement policy. On the surface, the Israeli Government is displaying indifference to the PNC decisions and even refuses to comment on them, but in reality it is seeking to excape the impasse in which the PNC decisions have placed it.

The game of advancing the elections has become obvious to anyone who understands the basics of politics. Shamir's meeting with Ne'eman (Tehiya) and Rehav'am Ze'evi (Moledet) as well as the statement by Sara Doron, head of the Likud Knesset faction, means that the Likud will be ready to contemplate advancing the date of elections. Moreover, Rehav'am Ze'evi said on Israeli television two nights ago that Shamir is the faithful guardian of the land of Israel. If our withdrawal from the government will help Shamir, we will withdraw, and if our remaining in the government will help him, we will remain.

All these meetings, remarks, and statements are clear proof that Shamir will play his last card, which is elections. All the parties involved in the peace conference have agreed to attend. The ball now is in the Israeli court. How will Israel play that ball?

In our assessment, the Israeli Government will fabricate a domestic crisis to dissolve the government and advance the date of elections so that time will be wasted, the United States will be preoccupied with elections, and the chance of achieving peace in the region will be squandered, perhaps forever. Will the world stand idle in the face of the Israeli rejection of peace? Will America's Arab allies capitulate to the Israeli position and resign themselves to continued occupation for eternity? Or will the international community realize Shamir's game and adopt a position forcing Israel to submit to the will of the international community?

Let us wait and see.

Fatah Protests Israeli Canal Project

LD0410191791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ala, member of the Fatah Central Committee and director general of the PLO's Economic Affairs and Planning Department, has made the following statement to the Palestinian News Agency WAFA about reports carried by news agencies on Israel's intention to start executing the two seas canal project:

International news agencies have reported, quoting Radio Israel, the intention of the Israeli occupation authorities to execute the Israeli project to build an artifical canal linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea. The announcement of the execution of this project at this precise time—while political movement is currently under way to convene a Middle East peace conference, in addition to Israel's persistence in continuing the building of Zionist settlements in the occupied Palestinian homeland, and the reception of contingents of Soviet immigrants—shows the obstacles which Israel is erecting to prevent the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace with its aggressive, illegitimate, and illegal measures.

This project, called the two seas canal, has serious strategic, economic, and ecological implications for both the Palestinian and Jordanian lands. Execution of this project will threaten the extraction of natural resources from the Dead Sea and the surrounding areas in both Jordan and Palestine. The project will lead to a change in the chemical composition of the Dead Sea and to a drop in the salt concentration in this sea. The project will cause ecological damage to the Dead Sea and disrupt the region's ecological balance.

Furthermore, this canal will pose a real great threat if Israel uses it for military and operational purposes in the event of an outbreak of an armed Israeli-Arab conflict, because Israel will flood very large areas of the Jordan Valley, which is below sea level, including archeological and tourist sites.

The project is essentially linked to Israeli nuclear industries, which will pose an enormous threat to the region, in addition to polluting the areas surrounding the project. The project serves the plan to expand Zionist settlements by taking in more new immigrants.

We call upon the Arab League and the international community to stop this dangerous project, which threatens the future of security and peace in the region and which does not serve the desire of the international community to establish a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

Algeria

Islamic Salvation Front Holds Rally

LD0510070991 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Today at the 20 August stadium in the capital, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] held its first rally since the state of siege was lifted. The rally was attended by about 40,000 FIS supporters. Mohsin Slimani, who was present at the rally, gives us further details in the following report:

The FIS provisional leadership wanted, in its first test since the recent June events, to measure the extent of its popularity and its appeal to the masses in the absence of its leadership, which is still being detained.

Just as was done at the conference of the elected councils, iron bars were fixed above the rostrum of the stadium with the names of Abassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, and the remaining detainees written on them.

This rally was led by Othmane Issani, Rabah Kebir, Mohammedi Said, and Abdelkader Moghni. It is worth pointing out that the presence of the latter disproves the report carried recently by the daily AL-WATAN to the effect that Abdelkader Moghni had been arrested.

In his speech delivered at the rally, Abdelkader Moghni, who is in charge of the Provisional Bureau of the FIS, indicated that the FIS is well and that it is following its course, which consists, as he said, of making demands and continuing the fight.

As regards the legislative elections, Othmane Issani said: If the regime wants to hold clean elections, it has to prove its intention by clearing up the political climate, by releasing the detainees and not chasing and following the FIS activists, as he put it. Abdelkader Moghni, who stood at the rostrum several times to speak, said that the regime thought that it was going to eliminate the FIS by declaring the state of siege. Four days after the state of siege was lifted, we tell the regime: Look at what has happened.

Mohammedi Said, for his part, included in his speech a call to the regime to release the detainees. He also said that he considered all the political parties present in the arena as one party, which is, as he put it, the party of Satan, because they did not take a stand on what happened to the FIS leadership.

The main thing to remember is that all the speeches made by the FIS provisional leadership at this rally insisted on the FIS' determination to continue its action to build an Islamic state. The speakers also confirmed their commitment to their leaders who are still detained, and did not change the tone of their language toward the regime.

RCD Represents 'Alternative for Democracy'

LD0510061291 Algiers APS in English 1357 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Algiers, Oct 5 (APS)—The Gathering for Culture and Democracy (RCD) is seeking to be the alternative for democracy so as to safeguard Algeria from the political stagnation the FLN (National Liberation Front) engendered. During a national conference here on Thursday that gathered together about 900 executives of this party to discuss the social and economic situation of Algeria, the RCD secretary general asserted that the members structuring his party remain, through their struggle, the ultimate recourse that could save Algeria.

Moreover, options for cultural liberties, the fight for human rights, were recalled at this conference and certain RCD executives considered that this party should have all means to pursue its policy, particularly by reinforcing its presence throughout the country. As for others, they proposed that an extraordinary congress be held to define the strategy of the forthcoming legislative elections. Eventually, the economic and social situation of the country was also brought up during this conference, and the secretary general pointed out that "debt rescheduling was inevitable, and the RCD already proposed it at a time when we could resort to such a measure without any risk."

FLN To Abide by Legislative Election Results

LD0510152191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] During a meeting of National Liberation Front [FLN] members and activists in Batna, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri [FLN secretary general] confirmed that the party will respect and abide by the results of the voting in the forthcoming legislative elections. Mr. Mehri called anew for the formation of a national coalition government after the elections, because no party, whatever majority it may get, will be able to resolve Algeria's problems alone, he said.

Foreign Minister on Mideast Peace Prospects

PM0410111891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Oct 91 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Matar] The general situation is moving toward the peace process in the Middle East, and in Algeria's address to the UN General Assembly you emphasized Algeria's support for the Palestinians. How would you assess what has happened and what is happening?

[Brahimi] I do not believe that our assessment has changed since our conversation with U.S Secretary of State James Baker; in other words, we form a positive

assessment of the endeavors being made by the United States and other parties such as the Soviet Union and the Europeans.

Second, the international atmosphere and climate are undoubtedly tending toward serious endeavors to resolve the existing regional problems.

Third, the Palestine problem and the South Africa problem are the most difficult and complicated regional problems, so they will certainly not be easy to tackle.

However, the Arab side is now generally convinced of the need to arrive at a final and comprehensive solution to the region's issues, particularly the Palestine issue and the problems related to it within the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It is also clear that the Israelis are not ready for such a solution. As the English expression says, "they want to have their cake and eat it too."

They want peace and also want what prevents peace at present; namely, the occupation of territory, hegemony, domination, and monopolization of armaments, in addition to all the other things that we know.

The question now facing the international community is this: How will it deal with a party that refuses to deal positively with these peace endeavors?

[Matar] And how do you believe this should be handled internationally?

[Brahimi] When we compare the situation with what happened in South Africa, we see the resolute and comprehensive position adopted by the international community toward the white minority in South Africa. It told them: If you want to be members of this international community, you must follow the principles accepted by this international community. After many years they submitted, and then we entered an exciting process full of hopes for South Africa.

But no similar position has been adopted in the Middle East toward Israel. On the contrary, there is a kind of embarrassment and submission on the part of a number of powerful and influential states to whatever emanates from Israel.

[Matar] How can we change that?

[Brahimi] A collective position should be adopted by the powerful states, saying that Israel must change its position.

[Matar] But do you not believe that the U.S. position on Israel's request for $10 billion in aid to build settlements and Washington's general position on the settlements issue reflect the intention to stop indulging Israel?

[Brahimi] What is required is a comprehensive position, not a position on partial matters, no matter how important those partial matters. We hope that the international community will move toward such a position, but it is still incomplete.

[Matar] Algeria rejected the invitation to attend the international conference. Is your position still the same?

[Brahimi] We have never refused. We said that we would be revealing no secret if we said that our commitment—certainly ours in Algeria and, we believe, that of the Arab Maghreb, too—is with the Palestinians, not the other side.

Second, it is no secret that we are in contact with the Arabs on this matter. What we do or refuse to do is in the service of the Palestinians and Arabs. Thus our position depends on the stances emanating from the Palestinians, first, and from the Arabs, second. We maintain contacts with these Arabs and Palestinians in order to define our position. Tomorrow there will be a meeting with King Hassan II to that end, to establish with our Palestinian and Arab brothers adjacent to Israel who have been invited to the conference which is more beneficial: our attendance or absence.

[Matar] So the invitation still stands.

[Brahimi] Yes.

[Matar] It seems that the Palestinian atmosphere is moving toward...

[Brahimi] Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] has just arrived in Algiers and we will hear from him what the Palestinian brothers want.

[Matar] How would you assess the present situation in Lebanon?

[Brahimi] First, there is something very strange: Someone attributed to me a statement in the Lebanese press to the effect that there was no money in the international fund for rebuilding Lebanon. I did not say that. A journalist asked me: Will Algeria contribute? I replied that Algeria is the state which has the money. And I still say that the Arabs and the international community have a moral commitment to Lebanon to help it. We are still working to set up the fund. [passage omitted]

[Matar] There is another question; namely, what is the significance of the Lebanese separation between Resolution 425 and the peace conference?

[Brahimi] Our position has long been clear. We have said, and we constantly emphasize, that the issue of the South and Resolution 425 cannot be merged with the Middle East issue. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon was dealt with by a separate resolution that does not deal with any other issue; that is, Resolution 425, which demands Israel's unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon.

So Lebanon cannot participate in the peace conference for the sake of negotiations over Resolution 425. If Lebanon participates in the peace conference, it will participate in its capacity as a state bordering Israel and because it is one of the region's states. As for Resolution 425, it is a different framework.

[Matar] Lebanon has some problems with Israel within the framework you mentioned. So if the time comes to resolve these problems while Israel insists on linking the problems with Resolution 425...

[Brahimi] Such as?

[Matar] Water and other problems...

[Brahimi] Resolution 425 is nonnegotiable. Everyone agrees with us on that.

[Matar] Does Israel agree with you on that?

[Brahimi] Israel does not agree with anyone. Otherwise there would be no problem.

[Matar] This is what I am trying to say: Israel refuses to separate...

[Brahimi] As I understand it, Israel refuses to withdraw, and that is that. It wants neither separation nor linkage. [passage omitted]

[Matar] President George Bush cited the Western Sahara issue in his address—for the first time...

[Brahimi] With regard to the Western Sahara, there is a detailed plan for a solution agreed by all the parties. It was issued by the Security Council in the form of a detailed resolution. The secretary general was entrusted with implementing it. We support that resolution unreservedly. We also support the secretary general in his efforts to carry out that task. We hope he succeeds.

[Matar] We are still hearing about obstacles.

[Brahimi] They will be eliminated, God willing.

Ghozali Receives Tunisian Interior Minister

LD0410191891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel arrived in Algiers today on a short visit during which he met with Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali.

This visit is taking place within the framework of bilateral consultation and coordination in matters of common interest and the strengthening of fraternal ties and cooperation.

'Revolution Radio' Expands Broadcast Times

LD0510181691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] As of today, the local Revolution Radio that had started broadcasting throughout the region of Bechar and the neighboring areas for two hours a day began adding a second transmission period, for a total transmission time now of six hours. The director of the regional station in Bechar made the following explanations concerning the increase in broadcast time:

[Unidentified director recording] The local Revolution Radio in Bechar today began extending and increasing its broadcast time from two hours a day to six hours a day. This came about naturally in response to the wishes of listeners and their insistence that the broadcast period be extended.

Some time ago, since 20 April of this year, the Revolution Radio launched an experiment with a daily broadcast of two hours, as I said in the beginning. In addition to the announcements, commercials, and daily services that were offered, its programs were specific to the region. The transmission covered several regions, including Bechar: the wilayas of Bechar, Adrar, and Tindouf.

The new transmission, as I said, began today from 0900 to 1500. The programs or network of programs laid down for this purpose are very numerous and varied so as to satisfy the wishes and needs of citizens: cultural, miscellaneous, and service-related programs, as well as local news bulletins concerning the municipal regions and their activities. This concerns the launching of our programs for today, but Revolution Radio also intends to extend the period of its transmissions in the future on its wavelengths and its transmitters, whether in the wilayas of Bechar, Adrar or Tindouf. [end recording]

Egypt

Musa Welcomes Gorbachev's Measure on Arms Cuts

NC0610121891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said Egypt welcomes Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to make cuts in nuclear arms in response to U.S. President George Bush's initiative to eliminate U.S. short-range nuclear weapons. In a statement today, the foreign minister praised the Soviet president's advanced measure to halt nuclear tests for one year.

Musa, Israeli Counterpart Meet in New York

NC0310190991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Excerpt] New York, 3 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met here today with Israeli Foreign

Minister David Levi. Following the 40-minute talks, the Egyptian foreign minister said that the talks dealt with the UN General Assembly's resolution equating Zionism with racism, noting that he explained to Levi Egypt's view on this matter that now is not the time to raise the issue.

The Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers were asked about linkage between the establishment of Israeli settlements and ending the Arab boycott of Israel. Musa affirmed that the settlements are illegal, noting that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories directly contradict the letter and spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 242. Musa affirmed that freezing the establishment of settlements would be an important step toward holding meaningful negotiations. Musa said he supports the demand to link the ending of establishing settlements with ending the Arab boycott. This demand is taken in accordance with the Egyptian initiative on the basis that the building of settlements is not conducive to creating the desired atmosphere to begin the peace process. The Egyptian foreign minister said that he explained Egypt's official position to the Israeli foreign minister, who listened to him with interest. The Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers agreed to continue consultations between them on this matter.

The Israeli foreign minister pointed out in response to a question that he discussed with Musa various issues on their joint responsibility for promoting the peace process. He added that Israel realizes the importance of not placing preconditions on the negotiations and said that progress has been made on this matter. Levi said he hopes that U.S. Secretary of State Baker will be able to narrow the differences on outstanding issues.

Levi said Israeli rejects any linkage between stopping the settlements and ending the Arab boycott, claiming that the boycott is an economic war and is contrary to any international norm. He said that many states do not support it, and therefore, no linkage should be made.

Arab Move To Void UN Resolution Reported

TA0510145091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Egypt is currently formulating a move, coordinated with several Arab countries, to offer the U.S. Administration their support for the move to rescind the UN resolution equating Zionism and racism. Correspondent Yehoshu'a Me'iri reports that the Egyptian plan calls for the anti-Zionist resolution to be repealed and, soon after that, for the United Nations to pass another resolution, with the U.S. support, which would stipulate that the Palestinians are a nation with the right to self-determination. That resolution would be a follow-up to a 1969 resolution on the same subject. Once the new resolution is passed, Israel would be asked to freeze settlement.

Musa Returns From UN General Assembly Session

NC0510073891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo early this morning from New York, where he led Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the UN General Assembly. Musa delivered Egypt's speech before the General Assembly on Monday, in which he defined Egypt's views on world changes, international issues, efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference, and Egypt's call to turn the Middle East into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

The foreign minister also held a series of talks on the sidelines of the General Assembly meetings, including a meeting with his U.S. counterpart James Baker, during which they discussed the problems facing the peace conference.

Argentine President Menem Meets Mubarak

NC0410170991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1633 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem arrived in Cairo tonight from Israel on a three-hour visit.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak welcomed Menem at Cairo airport along with Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign liaison; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; and the Argentine ambassador to Cairo.

Mubarak and Menem held talks at the airport lounge, and they will continue their talks over a working dinner hosted by Mubarak at the presidential lounge in the Cairo airport.

News Conference Reported

NC0[illegible]0193091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that the letter Argentine President Carlos Menem gave him from Israel's leaders is an encouraging one and can be considered a first step on the road to peace.

During a news conference President Mubarak held with the Argentine president at Cairo airport's presidential lounge this evening, Mubarak said that Egypt has no objection to the peace conference being held in Argentina. He added, however, that it would depend on the parties concerned.

The Argentine president welcomed the holding of the peace conference in his country, noting that all parties would have to agree. President Mubarak made a statement at the beginning of the news conference, expressing his pleasure at President Carlos Menem's brief visit, saying: I welcome him as a friend and president of a

friendly country with which we have good relations. We discussed several issues that have a bearing on the Middle East crisis and other regional matters, Mubarak said.

President Menem conveyed to me a message from the Israeli leadership on the peace conference, Mubarak continued, adding: I told President Menem that we favor and seek peace. As I have said repeatedly: Peace is very valuable and worth any concessions.

President Mubarak said he has great hopes that the peace conference will be held this month, noting: I believe that it is very important to sit down and negotiate. After the October war, we began negotiations over the Sinai issue, he said, adding: We held very long discussions and the negotiations were extremely difficult. However, we eventually reached very results. I believe that we can achieve the same result now through negotiations and that we can resolve the issues connected with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

President Menem thanked President Mubarak for his hospitality and said that the talks were marked with friendship and cordiality.

President Menem said: I mentioned the need to exert every possible effort to achieve a much-desired peace in this part of the world. I have conveyed to President Mubarak the regards of the Israeli leadership and its confidence in him regarding the peace conference.

Addressing President Mubarak, President Menem said: I note how fully unbiased your position was during our talks and that you hope and believe that the dialogue can begin this month.

President Menem said he and President Mubarak discussed Egyptian- Argentine relations, which Menem described as excellent. He noted that the Egyptian-Argentine joint committee will meet in a few days after a hiatus of some 13 years. The joint committee will discuss commercial and cultural relations and ways of increasing cooperation in all fields, thereby confirming the friendship between our governments and peoples, Menem said.

President Menem was asked whether he told President Mubarak that he wants Argentina to host the conference. He responded: Yes. I told President Mubarak that the people of Argentina and I want the conference to be held in Argentina. I conveyed the same wish to the Israeli officials and I hope that we can do it.

President Menem said that other parties involved in that matter would need to reach an agreement concerning the conference's time and venue.

President Mubarak said there are absolutely no differences in the Arab world with regard to the peace conference because the Arab countries have no disagreements on the Middle East issue, adding that a good level of coordination exists because the Arab foreign ministers meet periodically. He noted that the sole goal of the conference is peace and said that in order to attain that we must achieve a comprehensive settlement and a just solution that does not deprive the Palestinians of their rights.

Responding to a question on whether he will meet with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunisia, the Argentine president said that the agendas of official visits by heads of state are prepared in advance and no such meeting has been scheduled because it was not requested.

Asked if he is playing the role of mediator between the Arabs and the Israelis, President Carlos Menem addressed his reply to President Mubarak, saying: I am carrying out good offices, but I am not playing the role of mediator which is a more important role that what I am doing now. He noted that a mediator's role is to achieve agreement between two sides.

President Menem added that the most successful mediator, and one who deserves special mention, is the Egyptian president, adding: What I am doing is showing my willingness to look on this problem as my own. Please do not forget that I am of Arab origin and blood is thicker than water.

President Mubarak was then asked about his reaction to President Menem's call to hold the peace conference in Argentina. He said: We are not the only Arab country concerned with this issue. However, we have no objection about holding the conference in Argentina, but we would have to discuss it with all the parties involved.

Asked about his opinion of the letter which the Argentine president carried to him from Israel's leaders, President Mubarak said: My impression of the letter I received via President Menem is one that it inspires hope and gives an indication that we are about to make the first step toward peace.

Asked about whether he sympathizes with Latin American problems, President Mubarak said that the world is smaller than before and one cannot say that Argentina and the Middle East are far from each other. He added that 40 years ago, we used to speak of great distances; however, what happens today in Argentina or Cairo is seen on television screens worldwide in 15 minutes.

On the dangers of chemical armaments and other weapons of mass destruction, President Mubarak reiterated his position that weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East must be banned on the condition that the ban applies to all parties and include nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. In this matter, he added, there can be no distinction between "small and big" parties.

President Menem was asked about Argentina's stand on the current nominations for the UN secretary general's post. He said: We will take into account Dr. Butrus Ghali's nomination but the matter does not depend on Argentina alone.

Menem Departs for Cyprus

NC0410195591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem left Cairo for Cyprus this evening following a brief visit of several hours to Egypt. He was seen off at Cairo airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The two presidents held talks for three hours at the conclusion of which they held a news conference.

Butrus Ghali on Peace Conference, Venues

JN0610135291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Butrus Ghali, Egyptian deputy prime minister for foreign liaison, by Muhammad al-Sharif; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] Your Excellency: We hear contradictory reports and statements about the date and venue of the peace conference. Do your contacts lead you to believe that the chances are the conference will convene late this month?

[Ghali] I am optimistic that it will convene this month, but last-minute hitches may delay it to early November. But I would say the conference will be convened in the coming weeks. The convocation of the conference in itself is a challenge and enhances the chances of peace in the Middle East. I would add that the fresh diplomatic activity should help improve relations between all sides that will go to the conference, which in itself is something positive. In regard to the venue, no agreement has been reached as yet. The Greek ambassador has been in touch with me on behalf of Prime Minister Mitsotakis to propose Rhodes, recalling that the first armistice agreement was concluded there. And when he visited Cairo two days ago, Argentine President Carlos Menem suggested that the conference be held in Buenos Aires. A European capital is being touted, specifically Lusanne. In my opinion, it is important that the conference gets underway as quickly as possible, since peace requires action and without action we cannot obtain peace.

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency: How would you assess coordination among the Arab states with a stake in the peace conference?

[Ghali] Contacts are ongoing among these states, and it is hoped these contacts will be intensifed to increase the chances for a successful conference.

[Al-Sharif] Dr. Butrus Ghali: You are one of the candidates for the post of UN secretary general. What is the philosophy underlying your nomination for the post, and how do you rate your chances of winning the job?

[Ghali] I find it difficult to discuss my chances, with certain countries—including the United States and the United Kingdom—as yet undecided. I have received the support of the other major powers, the Latin group, the Islamic Conference Organization when it convened in Istanbul, as well as the Arab states. Along with other candidates, I am one of the African hopefuls. I cannot say that my chances are great, since the Egyptian candidate combines the African and Arab and third worlds. It serves the interests of the United Nations and world peace that a Third World figure occupy the post of UN secretary general—a personality that can express the pains and dreams of the Third World and that can balance the North-South and East-West relations that have grown stronger with the end of the cold war.

[Al-Sharif] Thank you, Dr. Butrus Ghali.

[Ghali] Thank you.

Mauritania

President Reviews Reforms in Interview

LD0610025191 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Interview with Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and president of Mauritania, by JEUNE AFRIQUE reporter Francois Sudah; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The weekly JEUNE AFRIQUE has published in its issue No. 1605 dated 2 October a special interview held by its correspondent Francois Sudah with Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. In the interview, the president talked about a host of important national and international issues. I invite you to listen to the text of the interview which will be read with me by colleague (Taqiallah Adham).

[Question] Five months ago you suddenly decided to launch a process to spread democracy. Why the decision? What are the issues and events that led you to this?

[Answer] We entered the democratic process and we did not decide on it suddenly. The history of our commitment to move along this path dates back to 1984, before the liberal winds swept Eastern Europe. This stems from a completely independent political option. [passage omitted]

[Question] This means that you are the first head of state who is not influenced by the international climate.

[Answer] Naturally, refusal to submit to pressure does not mean not taking external factors into account. We intend to save Mauritania from violent incidents that have taken place here and there in Africa. Our people have enemies who want to destroy the country. It is our task to prevent those while maintaining a close monitoring of the democratic process.

[Question] Your perception of a very closely monitored democracy rules out resorting to the national conference. Does that frighten you so much?

[Answer] Frighten me? Let us be serious. Not at all. As for my fear for my country, undoubtedly, yes. The national conference constitutes a constraining obstacle and a prepared structure opposed to democracy, not based on any kind of legitimate representation. It consolidates the success of those who shout with the loudest voices, the most arrogant lobbies, and the tribes of the circles with strong dependency on the outside. It is an ugly and destructive structure to usurp power and a rostrum of self- prominence that does not belong to the people who it claims to speak for. In the final analysis, there will not be economic reform or social justice but the destruction of the state and the administration in unbridled anarchy and massacres. Look around you.

[Question] Your regime is the one that is currently charged with perpetrating violent action. Humanitarian organizations accuse you silence over the death in custody of over 300 black Mauritanian soldiers who were arrested in November 1990. What do you say about this tragedy?

[Answer] One has to be precise. No one has died in prison, nor has anyone died after efforts to kill him in cold blood, as many people want to say. The deaths occurred during an attempt to gain control over affairs that were schemed and planned to destroy our country in a way similar to what was taking place in Liberia. The [word indistinct] was specifically raised by those implicated who were about to enter the stage of implementation. Faced by the size and gravity of that scenario, it was imperative to continue to safeguard order and security.

[Question] Who was responsible for the deaths? Will those who are concerned be brought to justice?

[Answer] This issue has been investigated by the leadership. It has emerged that there were incidents of neglect which resulted from lack of self-control in some units. Disciplinary action was taken against some senior officers, among whom are members of the Military Committee for National Salvation.

[Question] You are being accused of having eliminated black Mauritanian elements in the national army command.

[Answer] Those who are spreading these falsehoods are or must be aware that the person I have appointed to lead our army as chief of staff of the national army in 1985, that is, shortly after reaching power, was no other than (Colonel Abdellahi Yel), who has always been a close aide of mine. After his death I offered the same post to (Colonel Amadou Babali), who preferred to assume the portfolio of the Interior Ministry. I can give you many other examples of the trust I have been, and still am, granting every Mauritanian who serves his country. The thought of doubting any group of Mauritanians does not occur to me, particularly on nonobjective bases, despite the campaigns launched against our country every now and then.

[Question] What do you mean?

[Answer] Some of these campaigns are ongoing across the events you pointed out, and others seek to harm the unity of our people and our country's reputation. Among those are some misguided people who are of no use to Mauritania, unless they gain from exposing it to whoever wants to harm it. Over 15 months they cooperated with an external army in a kind of guerrilla warfare during which they assassinated peaceful citizens and pillaged their possessions. Some Mauritanian groups, which are undoubtedly informing organizations such as Amnesty International, actively participated in April 1989 in [word indistinct] and carried out massacres to which their brothers throughout Senegal were subjected.

[Question] This is a serious accusation.

[Answer] That participation was public and regarded as a source of pride. The complaints and testimonies concerning this, which were sent to us by a large number of our citizens who had been deported from Senegal, are crystal clear.

[Question] How far have the negotiations with Senegal gone?

[Answer] There is progress. Meetings at ministerial level and at technical committee level have been held. I believe that there is a political will to look for solutions.

[Question] When will you see results?

[Answer] It is difficult to specify a time limit for this kind of negotiation.

[Question] Can a meeting between you and President Diouf be expected?

[Answer] I received a telephone call from President Abdou Diouf. This is all I can say regarding this matter.

[Question] What will happen to the army and the Military Committee for National Salvation after the forthcoming general elections? Will there be a return to barracks without clashes?

[Answer] Our army is characterized by professionalism, and it has proved that during its task of defending the homeland. [passage omitted] When democratic institutions are established, the army will find that the tasks allocated to it will be in the framework of its traditional duties. That is the tendency and its option. It is also a vital necessity that deserves devoted adherence.

[Question] Mauritania is experiencing an atmosphere of pluralism. Do you support a political group?

[Answer] Yes, the Republican Democratic and Social Party.

[Question] As you know, the legal decree concerning freedom of the press has been the subject of criticism. It is being described as vague. Since its issuance, a weekly has been seized. Why all this prevention?

[Answer] First, I remind you that before 25 July, there was no legal text in this country organizing or permitting the freedom of the press. This means that one must be careful and vigilant. In the Third World, playing about with and using the press could be harmful, even criminal. We remember, for example, the negative role played by part of the Senegalese press during the April 1989 events. I believe, therefore, that it is worthy having a framework and a law organizing this domain. Apart from that, freedom of the press has now become a recognized issue. It is continuously growing, and in this respect, I can rely on the sense of responsibility and patriotism of those working in the private and public sectors of the press. [passage omitted]

[Question] After seven years of your rule, what are the political results you will be taking to the electors?

[Answer] I have worked for the liberation of all the energies of our people. I have fought illiteracy. I worked for the liberation of women. [passage omitted]

[Question] As a party to the problem of the Western Sahara, have you been worried by the recent escalation in the fighting between the Polisario and Morocco?

[Answer] Naturally there is concern not only over the continuity of the peace process, but because of the proximity of the Sahara to our northern borders.

[Question] Do you still believe in the holding of a referendum on self-determination?

[Answer] I have several things that make me pin great hopes on the holding of a referendum.

Opposition Forms 'Union of Democratic Forces'

LD0510193391 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Four former ministers are among the leaders of the Union of Democratic Forces [Union des Forces Democratiques], a new Mauritanian opposition party. It is the sixth group to have been authorized in the country, and it is perhaps a serious contender against the president's party. Here is a report from Thierry Perret:

This is the sixth political party to be authorized since the adoption of the decrees on parties at the end of July, and it is clearly the first group to situate itself resolutely in opposition to the regime in place. The birth was laborious, it must be said. It was a question notably of regrouping the component elements of the United Democratic Front, a movement which in its time was declared illegal and whose main leaders, it may be recalled, were arrested and placed under house arrest in June. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Interior Minister Meets Sahrawi Tribesmen

LD0410182891 Rabat MAP in English 1314 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 4 (MAP)—Proposals concerning the conduct of the referendum in the southern provinces were covered at a meeting in Laayoun between the heads of departments, officials and governors of the southern provinces.

The delegation assessed at another meeting with representatives of Sahrawi tribes and delegates of youth, women, professional and cultural associations programs of economic, social and agricultural development implemented in the region since its recovery by Morocco.

Taking the floor, Driss Basri, minister of interior and information, asserted Morocco will gain in the referendum, saying those who want to reintegrate the homeland are welcome because the time of truth has come and the projected referendum will be an opportunity to renew the belonging to Morocco, in particular for Moroccan nationals living outside the Moroccan soil.

The minister also announced the launching of important programs in agriculture, farming, mining and energy. Other ministers who took the floor unanimously asserted that the projected consultation in the Sahara can only confirm the Sahara belonging to Morocco and the Sahrawi population's attachment to the Alawit throne and their Moroccan citizenship.

Thursday, Basri briefed a Cabinet Council meeting here on the delegation's visit to Laayoun and the meeting it held with the city's various cultural, political, youth and women associations, MPs [members of parliament] and delegates of professional unions.

Basri underlined the unanimous stance concerning national unity as expressed by all those who took the floor during the meeting. They have all reiterated feelings of true patriotism and underscored the firm links binding the Moroccan northern and southern provinces, Basri said.

Participants representing the Sahrawi tribes, associations and organisations have expressed joy concerning the return of their brothers to take part in the referendum and renew attachment to their Moroccan citizenship and faithfulness to the throne and to King Hassan II.

Minister in charge of the development of the southern provinces, Khelli Henna Oul Er-Rachid, spoke of the populations' enthusiasm and joy to receive their brothers who had to go northward to flee the Spanish colonisers' repression and who are now seizing the opportunity of the holding of the referendum to renew spiritual and political attachment to the Alawit throne and to the kingdom's territorial unity.

Former Polisario Leader Returns to Rabat

LD0410180291 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 3 (MAP)—Another leader of the separatist "Polisario" Front, Boulaht al-Khalifa, returned to the motherland recently.

Al-Khalifa who was in charge of the information services in Spain and secretary general of the Journalists' Union, was still in the Tindouf camps last September 6, the day of the proclamation of the cease-fire in the Sahara by the United Nations. That very day, he attended a news conference held by the President of the puppet "Sadr" (Sahrawi Republic) Mohamed Abdelaziz and was entrusted with announcing the enforcement of the cease-fire.

In a statement to the Moroccan radio and TV "RTM" aired Wednesday, Boulahi explained that the information sector was for the "Polisario" a genuine intoxication and propaganda means seeking three main goals, namely to hammer the idea of the Moroccan invasion of the Sahara in the public opinion so that Morocco be viewed as an occupation force, to make the Moroccans sequestered in the Tindouf camps accept the idea of creating a state, and speculate on the tragic situation of the Moroccan Sahrawis to get financial, material and sometimes political backing.

He said that thousands of Sahrawis, including himself, knew little about Morocco because of the cultural isolation imposed by the Spanish colonizer. "We neither master Arabic nor French. As we mostly speak in Spanish, we were greatly influenced by Spanish propaganda", he said.

Of the 1988 uprising in the Tindouf camps, he said the sequestered people protested living conditions and claimed that their interests, embodied in the return to the motherland, be guaranteed. The uprising was all the more justified as the main leaders of the Polisario were Mauritanian and Algerian mercenaries having nothing to do with the Sahara.

To a question on the projected referendum in the Sahara, Boulahi said the referendum will merely confirm integration to the motherland as all the authentic Sahrawis dream of coming back home.

As to the current situation within the Polisario, he said, "its organizational structure no longer exists. The movement is currently no more than a gang of thieves whose main concern is to steal the largest possible amounts of money".

The former Polisario leader said further that as he was in charge of the information sector, he used to read the Moroccan media and he noted that the latter was free, diversified and represented all political and ideological trends. "I realized thus that Morocco is a democratic country with the multiparty system", he said, underlining the need to endeavor so that the Sahrawis recover their dignity in the framework of their own country, Morocco.

Paper Cited on Polisario 'Allegations'

LD0410183291 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Rabat, Oct.4 (MAP)—The recent allegations by the so-called foreign minister of the Polisario to the Spanish media that Spanish coloniser had never forced the Sahrawis towards the northern parts of the Kingdom "are merely aimed at denying our Sahrawi co-citizens who took refuge in the northern provinces the right to participate in the projected self-determination referendum in the Moroccan Saharan provinces, states Moroccan daily "AL-BAYANE".

The officials of the puppet entity reject the referendum and its outcome, the daily of the party for progress and socialism (PPS/Opposition) says, recalling that the Polisario so-called foreign minister is a native of Smara and that "he betrayed his homeland and his relatives in 1975 when he fled to Algiers to adhere to the Polisario".

Now this fellow asks Spain to exact from the UNO [UN Organization] to rely only on the 1974 Spanish-conducted census as a reference for the voters' rolls, ignoring thousands of Sahrawis who, fleeing Spanish repression, had taken refuge in northern Morocco, the daily says, wondering what credibility foreign sides, including the UNO, can grant these fellows who tell such blatant lies.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Decrees National Conference Dates

EA0610212291 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, on 5 October issued a decree on convening a comprehensive national strategy conference to be chaired by his excellency with RCC members Adam al-Tahir and Brigadier Dominic Kassiano as his deputies. The decree states that the conference be held at Friendship Hall from 21 October to 12 December 1991.

Members of the conference's steering committee are drawn from the conference's secretariat, leaders, deputies, and rapporteurs of the relevant sectors and committees. The decree appoints retired Lt. Gen. al-Sirr Muhammad Ahmad as the chairman of the steering committee; al-Sa'id Uthman Mahjub, as his deputy; Dr. Sayf al-Din Muhammad Ahmad as general rapporteur; and Brigadier Babikr Muhammad Tawm as deputy rapporteur. There are 37 other members.

The conference will aim to lay down a comprehensive national strategy to define the course, objectives, and goals of national action and the ways and means to bring these to realization over the next 10 years. It will also draw up a general and regional program to govern the transformation of that strategy into a living reality through open national dialogue during the two preparatory phases [not further specified] and through preparations to note public views.

Defense Minister: Rebels Deserting Ranks

EA0410132091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, state minister for defense, has said that the Armed Forces are controlling events in southern Sudan. He said the Armed Forces were recently able to score big victories over the rebels. He expressed the revolution's keenness to solve the southern problem once and for all. He further said that big numbers of outlaws had recently deserted the rebellious ranks and handed themselves over to the Armed Forces in the operation zone. The state defense minister said until last month the numbers of returnees [words indistinct] from the rebellion movement had so far reached 60,000 rebels.

Armed Forces Claim Destruction of Rebel Camps

EA0410221691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] The Sudanese Armed Forces and the Popular Defense Forces have succeeded in destroying four rebel camps in the (Jabal Tega) area in southern Kurdufan. Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ahmad Ali, commander of the Popular Defense Forces of the western sector in Kurdufan, stated that the Armed Forces backed by the Popular Defense Forces and friendly forces [not further specified] had succeeded in destroying rebel camps at (Kareng) and (Kajor), where the largest rebel prison is on top of the hill. They also destroyed (Tamba al-Wadi Meri) and (Heri Juwa) camps and captured Meri reservoir, which has plenty of fish.

His excellency described the destruction of these camps as the rebels' greatest defeat in southern Kurdufan. The sector commander stressed that the Armed Forces and the Popular Defense Forces will continue to inflict defeat upon defeat on the rebels until the insurrection is totally eradicated.

Friendship Society With Eritrea Formed

EA0410145091 Khartoum SUNA in French 1617 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The formation of the Sudanese-Eritrean Friendship Society was announced on Tuesday, 1 October in the presence of the secretary general of the International People's Friendship Council, Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, and Mr. Amin Muhammad Sa'id, secretary of national orientation in the provisional Eritrean Government. Dr. 'Uthman addressed the ceremony held on this occasion, asserting Sudan's steady role regarding neighboring countries, and its steps to develop (?popular) relations with friendly countries and [words indistinct].

The [word indistinct] Eritrean (?addressed) the ceremony, praising developed Sudanese-Eritrean relations, and the efforts of the Friendship Council to promote Sudan's relations with the peoples of the Horn of Africa.

Refugee Repatriation Meeting With Chad Planned

EA0410163791 Khartoum SUNA in English 1632 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Oct (SUNA)—Sudan and Chad have agreed to hold a preliminary meeting at Abeche Town (Chad) to map out a plan for voluntary repatriation of Chadian refugees following harvest season. The agreement was reached during a meeting here today between state minister for refugees affairs, Brigadier (retd) Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, and executive secretary of the Chadian Salvation Front, Dr. Mukhtar Bashir.

Brig. Sirr al-Khatim said in a press statement that the encounter discussed the situation of Chadian refugees in Sudan and the prepared plan for their repatriation. He noted that his commission requested the Chadian side to intensify contacts with refugees' camps in Darfur State (Western Sudan) to explain the new situation in Chad.

The Chadian guest assured the refugees commission to transport Chadian refugees and promised to discuss the issue with the concerned sides. He concluded that the Chadian refugees number in Darfur and Central States camps amounted to 20,000 persons.

Refugee Official Notes Ethiopian Repatriation

EA0410215891 Khartoum SUNA in English 1651 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3rd October (SUNA)—About 1,324 Ethiopian refugees were transported to their homeland in the framework of the first and second phases of repatriation operations, [the] state minister for refugees [title as received] announced. Brig (retd) Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim said that 4,300 Ethiopian refugees will be repatriated in the context of the third phase. He urged [the] international community to provide the necessary assistances to complete the operation. The refugees have a number of agricultural projects, pointing to the cultivation of 108,000 feddan by refugees in the eastern and central states, Brig Sirr al-Khatim said, adding that the refugees will participate in [the] harvest campaign.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Addresses Nation 5 Oct

LD0510213491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1908 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Speech by President Ben Ali in Tunis on 5 October—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Citizens, since the change [on 7 November 1987] we have been eager to devote ourselves earnestly to correct the situation, to organize and develop the administration and the economy and ensure their efficiency, to replace fear with security, to return confidence to the people, to achieve reconciliation among everyone, to turn over the leaves of the past, to spread forgiveness and support justice, and to turn to the future. We relied on everyone's maturity and wisdom, and we wanted the Tunisian and every citizen who would participate in the building of the present of the country and safeguard its future to feel that they are building the present and the future for themselves, their children and families, and the sons of their homeland. Since the change, we have been aware that this country must become the country of all Tunisians, and we were convinced that the realization and success of that could not be done without the participation of everyone in the national effort which brings benefit to everyone. With God's blessings and help, and by the virtue of the readiness of all Tunisians, we were able to realize many objectives that we had planned, agreed on, and were satisfied with together—whether through what was stated in the 7 November statement, included in the National Charter, or on the basis of the electoral plan that I introduced to you during the 1989 elections.

The citizen became proud of his country, his state, and his institutions, and he realized that we had been working as hard as we could, and with all seriousness, to realize greater reforms in all domains. The citizen has also clearly realized that these collective efforts were the ones that enabled our country to come out safe and sound from the natural difficulties, and from the effects of the political and economic upheavals in the world. The citizen also realized that we use the national resources only in the service of the national collectivity, and our permanent interest has become clear in the preoccupations of all sections of society, as well as our eagerness to bring about solidarity and brotherhood, to help the needy and the weak, to provide the freedom of initiative, and to guarantee political, social, and humanitarian rights.

Citizens: We had thought well of all Tunisians, men and women, without exception, and we hoped that virtue and good would triumph in all that they thought about and did. We were disappointed only by a small minority that neither thought nor did well, because it reneged on its pledges, met good with evil, and left the popular consensus. Not content with this, it laid down for itself plans that it wanted to impose by the force of violence and terrorism, with killings and assassinations, and sabotage and destruction of national gains and public and private property. It resorted to deception and slogan-raising. It is the one to which the words of Almighty God apply: And only themselves they deceive. In their hearts is sickness, and God has increased their sickness, and there awaits them a painful chastisement for that they have cried lies. [passage omitted: Koranic verse] God tells the truth. At a time when all have been busy reconstructing on earth, these people have sought to corrupt it. And if they are told: do not corrupt on earth, they say: we are reformers. But they are indeed the corrupt ones. [passage omitted: Koranic verse]

Is there something more corrupt than the deliberate killing of someone by immoliation, by tying the hands of, pouring gasoline on and burning alive an old man who had spent the best part of his youth fighting the colonialists? Is there anything that is more corrupt than destroying schools and interrupting the quest for knowledge, which was made a duty by our Prophet for every male and female Muslim, or than damaging the country's interests at home and abroad, the planning of murder, assassination and coup to gain power? Is there anything in our true religion that calls for the usurpation of power by killing and the shedding of blood? Which political action, what kind of respect for law and which democracy or liberty allows that? Those who want to usurp power by violence and terrorism, want to rule people by violence and terrorism, and those who endeavor to drag the country into sedition and "sedition is worse than killing"

Citizens, by virtue of our responsibility and out of the duty to defend the society and the state in accordance with the constitution and national trust, we were aware of and alert to all their moves. We have always been and will remain committed to what is dictated by the law and required in the interest of the country. We did not rush ahead of events and we did not reproach anyone for his opinion or ideas, until hands moved towards implementation. We stood up to them in accordance with the law and referred the perpetrators and ringleaders to justice to pronounce its sentence on those who committed a crime against the people's right and the homeland.

The action of those terrorists and saboteurs is more than a plot aimed at me or at the country's constitutional institutions. It is a desperate and failed attempt to spread corruption on earth. It is a desperate attempt because those behind it have nothing to do with politics as much as they have nothing to do with religion. They failed because the objective became corrupt before they started, and because the Tunisian people as a whole confronted them unanimously and determinedly to thwart and isolate the proponents and perpetrators after they isolated themselves from the society and the people.

I offer greetings of appreciation to all male and female citizens, political parties, and professional and social organizations for their brilliant patriotic stances, for

their reply and denunciation to those actions and their perpetrators, and for adhering to the noble values of true patriotism and the constituents of the modern state and its gains. This covetous group has not obstructed our march in any sphere; not in the political, economic, or social spheres. They have not diverted us from continuing the reforms nor from continuing development work. They have not made us retreat from our options or from accomplishing our daily or future tasks. We draw our self-confidence from our sincerity and from the confidence of all citizens, and from all the institutions of the society and the people. Our faith is first and foremost in God.

Finally, while I would like to renew my thanks, I urge you all to devote yourselves to work for the service, development, and invulnerability of our country in complete security and peace of mind about the safety of the march and the invulnerability of the state and its institutions. The Almighty said: Those that were before them devised; but God's is the devising altogether. He knows what every soul earns. The unbelievers shall assuredly know whose will be the ultimate abode. [passage omitted: Koranic verse] God spoke the Truth. Peace and God's blessings be on you.

Prime Minister Receives French Military Chief

LD0410194891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Hamed Karoui received at the government house in Kasbah Admiral Jacques Lanxade, chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, who said that they discussed issues pertaining to security in the Mediterranean and current relations between the two countries as well as the means to consolidate them.

Opposition Member's Passport Confiscated

LD0510110891 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] In Tunisia Abdeljelil Gabiche, member of the Popular Unity Movement Political Bureau run by Ahmed Ben Salah, was planning a trip to London in order to participate in the Labour Party conference. Yesterday, however, his passport was confiscated at Tunis' Carthage Airport, preventing him from leaving the country.

Ennahdha's 'Vile Conspiracy' Strongly Condemned

LD0510125991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies has issued a communique in which it strogaly condemns the vile conspiracy of what is called the Ennahdha Movement. The communique says that the Chamber's bureau, which met today under the chairmanship of Beji Caid Essebsi, reviewed the consipracy which the so-called Ennahdha Movement had planned in order to assassinate the head of state, to overthrow the system, to create a constitutional vaccumn, and to plunge the country in the whirlpool of violence and disturbances. The Chamber strongly condemns the subversive nature of these terrorist gangs, and condemns its means and its hopeless attempts to seize power and plunge the country into a chain of bloody conflicts, which are incompatible with the people's will, and contrast with the constitutional legitimacy and the teachings of our true Islamic religion. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Reports on Libyan Trip

LD0510175891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received at Carthage Palace this afternoon a report from Tunisian Minister of Justice Abderrahim Zouari on his mission to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The minister conveyed to the leader of the Libyan revolution a message from President Ben Ali falling within the framework of fraternity, cooperation, and consultation between the two fraternal countries.

The minister conveyed to the president the greetings and appreciations of his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his profound pleasure at President Ben Ali's initiative bolster bonds of consultation and coordination for the good of the two fraternal peoples and bolster the edifice of the Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

SDAR Envoy on Moroccan Plans for Sahara

LD0710102591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Morocco wants to organize a new Green March on the Western Sahara, according to Ibrahim Hakim [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic ambassador to Algeria], who says that Morocco intends to mobilize more than 600,000 Moroccans before the referendum on the self-determination of the Saharan people. Ibrahim Hakim also stated that this figure would include 200,000 Moroccan soldiers, 200,000 settlers, who settled at the time of the first Green March, 30,000 policemen and security agents, and 175,000 new settlers. Recall also that Moroccan Foreign Minister Filali recently spoke at the United Nations of the impending recovery of Moroccan sovereignty in these territories. Listen now an interview given by Ibrahim Hakim to Farida Bekkouche:

[Begin recording] [Hakim] All that Morocco has been doing recently is in fact announcing a refusal—without actually saying so—to implement the peace agreement. There is the declaration just made by Mr. Abdelatif Filali which completely contradicts Morocco's undertaking in principle, and in fact, to take part in the holding of the referendum. There is this human influx of Moroccans in the Sahara which reminds us of the 1975 Green March.

One has the feeling that the Moroccan side is attempting a forward flight, wants to destabilize the implementation of the referendum—sorry, I mean of the peace plan. The Moroccan Army has already violated the cease-fire seven times, and we drew international attention to this behavior. Presently—and this is extremely serious—there is a Moroccan will to choke the Saharans socially by dispatching tens of thousands of Moroccans who are settling in Sahara.

[Bekkouche] The Moroccan newspaper L'OPINION mentions an expected Moroccan contingent of 160,000 Moroccans.

[Hakim] It confirms exactly what we said, and this is the problem on which we drew the attention of the international community, and that means that our appeal is fully justified, the proof is that the Moroccans themselves acknowledge these facts after having denied them. This is very strange because we hear two different opinions on the Moroccan side: we hear the Moroccan authorities express their agreement for the peace plan and, at the same time, acting against this will, acting to undermine this peace plan, to do everything to see that this peace plan does not succeed, and to see that the beginning of the implementation of this peace plan, along with the cease-fire, be questioned. All this is extremely serious since Morocco committed itself in a document, in a positive document of implementation, which is the peace plan.

[Bekkouche]: Was the UN secretary general's representative conscious of these arguments?

[Hakim] Absolutely. The United Nations is very consistent. This explains its attachment to the peace plan. But this UN attachment is presently a tug-of-war with the will of the Moroccan side to wreck everything.

[Bekkouche] Besides an appeal, what is your recourse to the United Nations?

[Hakim] We are confident of the UN's ability to defend its plan because the plan is not only the Moroccan and Saharan plan; the plan is also the plan of the United Nations, and particularly of the Security Council and of its permanent members, so it is with the United Nations that the first responsibility to defend this plan rests because it is a UN plan. [end recording]

Polisario Says Morocco Manipulating Referendum

LD0510124991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] The Polisario Front accused Rabat today of trying to influence the results of the referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara by forcing Saharan nationals who are registered in the electoral lists to go to Morocco.

In a press release handed to REUTER today, the Front states that these Saharans, who work in the health and education spheres, have been sent to Morocco under the pretext of receiving training in these special areas.

Bahrain

Qatari Complaint to Court of Justice Contested

JN0410161691 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Manama, Oct 4 (GNA)—A spokesman from the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs made the following statement last night:

At a hearing with the president of the International Court of Justice 2nd October 1991 in the Hague, Netherlands, it was agreed that the matter of the court's jurisdiction to consider the unilateral application by the State of Qatar should be dealt with during the coming year.

Earlier, negotiations had taken place on the content of a special agreement to lead to a joint application to the court but this was not finalised. The State of Bahrain had protested that the State of Qatar's unilateral application submitted on 8th July was unlawful and the court lacked jurisdiction. Bahrain had no alternative to contesting the application in order to achieve a joint submission to the court.

Kuwait

UN Says 26 Iraqis Killed in DMZ Since Sep

NC0610200891 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait City, Oct 6 (AFP)—Twenty-six Iraqi civilians have been killed and 100 wounded since September 13 during attempts to enter Kuwait to collect weapons left behind by Iraqi troops, a U.N. spokesman said here Sunday.

'Abd-al-Latif Kabbaj, spokesman for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission (UNIKOM), said the casualties occurred in a demilitarized zone [DMZ] set up between the two countries at the end of the Gulf war.

Well-informed sources have said Baghdad is paying civilians to enter the DMZ to collect weapons and mines left behind by Iraqi troops who occupied Kuwait for seven months until a U.S.-led coalition drove them out in February. A shell brought back to Iraq can fetch up to 150 dollars, the sources said.

Kabbaj said that UNIKOM has repeatedly asked Iraq to put an end to such practices.

A UNIKOM communique issued Saturday in New York quoted U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar as saying that tension rose in August "as a result of incursions from Iraq into Kuwaiti territory." He charged that the infiltrators were looking for "weapons, ammunition and other battlefield items," adding that they were dressed in "civilian clothes and used civilian vehicles." "The question has been raised whether they are in fact military personnel but UNIKOM has not been able to establish that this is so," the report said. "It is evident that there are persons engaged in this dangerous activity who are not trained for it," it added.

The report also said that Kuwaiti forces and their allies carried out 210 violations since May in the DMZ compared to 29 for the Iraqis. But the UNIKOM spokesman said the Kuwaiti incidents were minor.

Saudi Arabia

Al-Faysal Denies 'Disagreements' With U.S.

LD0410151891 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has stressed that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has led to the loss of any confidence in the current Iraqi government and the removal of any foundations for establishing relations as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power.

His royal highness described the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as a shock that contradicted Saddam Husayn's personal assurances to the Arab leaders including King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

In a press interview published yesterday, his royal highness talked about the relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Iran. He pointed out that there are opportunities for widening the positive relations with Iran.

On the other hand, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal denied reports that there are disagreements between Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Minister Conveys King's Message to Mitterrand

LD0310101291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, 2 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a written message to French President Francois Mitterrand. The message was delivered by Hisham Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, when he was received by President Mitterrand this evening at the Elysee palace. The meeting was attended by the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Paris Jamil al-Hijaylan. Minister Nazir arrived in Paris yesterday.

Yemen

Foreign Minister Welcomes Bush's Arms Initiative

JN0510070291 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has affirmed that the launching of unity and the

establishment of the Republic of Yemen, which epitomized our Yemeni people's hopes and aspirations throughout their protracted struggle—this historic event—constitutes a modest contribution by the Yemeni people toward the march of change being witnessed by mankind in various parts of the world. All these changes will eventually contribute toward safeguarding the new world order, he added.

In our country's speech, which he delivered during the UN General Assembly's 46th session in New York yesterday, the brother minister expressed pride that the Yemeni unity reflects a unique experience in our region—an experience that removed once and for all the wall which separated the two parts of Yemen. He pointed out that our people achieved unity through peaceful and democratic means in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen which was endorsed in a public referendum in May 1991.

The brother foreign minister indicated that the Constitution has become a beacon guiding our steps in the building of a new Yemen along the path of freedom, democracy, justice, equality, and the building of institutions through which all citizens can exercise their rights in full, and participate effectively in our country's political life, development, and economic endeavors.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani welcomed U.S. President George Bush's initiative on the reduction of some types of nuclear arms. He expressed hope that this initiative will be the beginning of efforts to achieve disarmament with regard to nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in order to eventually effect a real and total disarmament of nuclear and other lethal weapons.

In our country's speech, Dr. al-Iryani also touched on a host of issues and Arab as well as international developments.

Government Support for U.S. Peace Plan Reported

NC0510182091 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Manama, Oct 5 (AFP)—Yemen announced support for a U.S. Middle East peace plan and sought to restore relations with the nations of the coalition force that drove Iraq from Kuwait, the Al-Hayat [as received] newspaper said Saturday. "Yemen supports the peace plan submitted by President George Bush and believes that peace in the region must be founded on resolutions 242 and 338," Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Iryani told Al-Hayat. The U.N. Security Council resolutions call for an exchange of land for peace.

Yemen "will not hesitate to support its (Arab) brothers and remove any obstacle that could block a Middle East peace conference despite its distance from the zone of the Israel-Arab conflict," al-Iryani said in the interview. Meanwhile, Yemen "is ready to unconditionally normalize its relations" with the nations of the U.S.-led coalition that ended the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in February, he was quoted as saying.

"During the Gulf crisis we never tried to harm anyone or damage our relations" with the members of the anti-Iraq coaliton, the minister said, adding that those countries who want to renew ties with Yemen are "welcome." On future security arrangements for the Gulf, al-Iryani said Yemen "does not seek to participate in the military arrangements. One must first guarantee political, economic and social security in the region," he added.

Salih, al-Bid Tour Governorates, Arrive in Aden

JN0410120891 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council; and 'Abd-al-Karim al- 'Arashi, member of the Presidential Council, have arrived in Aden, the Yemeni economic and trade capital, as part of their current tour of a number of the republic's governorates. They will learn about the condition of the people, discuss their ideas and aspirations, and inspect the work of various projects, utilities, and departments.

The president is accompanied by Brother Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister for internal affairs; Muhammad 'Ali Haykal and 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Haddi, members of the General Committee [of the General People's Congress]; 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jaddi, president of the Yemeni People's Association; and a number of other officials.

Ekeus Cited on Baghdad Mission, Kay's Conduct

JN0510092991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0849 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, has affirmed that the United Nations, rather than any other agency, is the only party authorized to have access to any information or reports acquired by inspection committees and teams.

In reply to a question posed to him by a correspondent of the newspaper BABIL yesterday, he said that David Kay's relaying of information to Washington before having it sent to the United Nations was erroneous conduct. He added that the information relayed by David Kay is currently under discussion and consideration by UN special committees.

Ekeus said that he has a specific mission. He added that he will cooperate with the Iraqi side to draw up an itinerary for his mission as soon as possible, since he has not thus far defined his course of action, and also as he is awaiting consultations in this regard with the Iraqi side.

Regarding the duration of the team's stay in Baghdad, Ekeus said that this has not yet been established, but would probably last several days.

Meets Ahmad Husayn

JN0510133491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1257 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn today met with Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN special committee, and his delegation.

The minister gave a detailed briefing on the methods followed by David Kay, upon instructions from the CIA, to implement the White House schemes.

He explained that the timeframe in which David Kay chose to stir the problem was agreed upon with CIA commanders; namely, in the first hour of the UN General Assembly session when delegates were supposed to deliver their speeches, and two hours before the speech of his president, Bush.

Ahmad Husayn also explained the facilities and cooperation which Iraq offered to the inspection teams, even though some of them had deliberately hurt Iraq and its people.

He asserted that Iraq demands that the inspection teams be fair in fulfilling their tasks, and not become a tool for a state or group of states that have political designs against Iraq and its people. He pointed out that if this condition is met, then work can proceed in the quickest and best way.

They also reviewed what the inspection teams have achieved in all fields since the beginning of their work up to the present.

Discusses Helicopters, Teams With 'Aziz

JN0510205691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz this evening received Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Committee, and his delegation. During the meeting, the deputy prime minister stressed Iraq's position on a number of issues regarding the work of the inspection teams and the details of using the UN helicopters.

In particular, the deputy prime minister laid emphasis on the biased interpretations of certain clauses in UN Security Council Resolution 687, and the tasks of the inspection teams and their composition, which the U.S. Administration and some of its allies have tried to impose on the United Nations.

Tariq 'Aziz reviewed the attempts by the U.S. Administration to implement its aggressive policies against Iraq by imposing large number of Americans within the inspection teams, despite the fact that these people are not specialized for the inspection teams' tasks and missions as specified for in the UN resolutions.

The deputy prime minister also touched on the crisis stirred by the sixth nuclear inspection team, under the U.S. intelligence officer David Kay, and its false allegations on the seizure of alleged documents. Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq does not, and will not, recognize any alleged document not included in the joint inventory of the documents signed by the inspection team and the competent Iraqi authorities.

The deputy prime minister reacted to the recent allegations by U.S. quarters on the nature of the Iraqi nuclear program. He explained to Mr. Ekeus the peaceful nature of the program in the field of research, for the sake of achieving scientific progress and attaining technology to achieve industrial and social progress.

The deputy prime minister also discussed in detail the use of UN helicopters, and stressed the need to set a time limit for the presence of these helicopters in Iraq. He asserted that Iraq is prepared to cooperate with the Special Committee and the United Nations to implement Resolution 687 in a correct, fair, and legal manner. He also stressed Iraq's readiness to cooperate as much as possible with the Special Committee and the inspection teams, so long as they abide by applying the said resolution in a fair, correct, and legal manner.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two parties underlined the importance of direct contacts to deal with issues of mutual concern.

Concludes Talks With Officials

JN0610140191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1309 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Committee, left Baghdad today at the end of his three-day visit to Iraq.

A number of Iraqi officials met with Ekeus and explained to him David Kay's mode of action under the instruction of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which was to carry out the designs of the administration in the White House.

During these meetings, the Iraqi officials reiterated that Iraq wants inspection teams to be fair in their work and does not want them to carry out the will of a state, or a number of states, that are politically hostile to Iraq and its people. They affirmed that if this condition is met, work will be carried out quickly and in the best way possible.

They also reviewed the facilities and cooperation Iraq offered to the inspection teams, although some of these teams have deliberately harmed Iraq and its people.

'Aziz Terms Bush's Remarks 'Insult' to UN

JN0510121291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has described U.S. President Bush's repeated, hostile, and tendentious statements against Iraq as "disdain for and insult to all values, norms, and international institutions, including the Security Council."

Commenting to INA on the latest statement by U.S. President Bush, 'Aziz said: Bush's position, which he repeated yesterday, arrogantly exceeds the Security Council's resolutions and declared objectives, although it was Bush's Administration that used methods of pressure and bribe to pass those resolutions, and although the resolutions are unfair beyond all limits.

Mr. 'Aziz added: In a criminal manner, the U.S. President continues to insist on the economic blockade against the Iraqi people and on imposing U.S. hegemony over Iraq's economy, not because this is stated in the Security Council resolution, but because he seeks to achieve the objectives of hegemony over the region, to terrorize the people of the region and the world, and to subjugate those peoples to U.S. extortion.

The deputy prime minister said: The U.S. President has been repeating these statements, which have become well-known, over the past few months. The Iraqi people, who adhere to their independence, free will, and nationalist leadership, have reacted to them by demonstrating the required stands that confirmed their nobility and age-old civilization, and also that they are a people who cannot succumb to such cheap blackmail. He went on to say: If some agent or silly rulers of the region tempted Bush to take such a position, which is full of false arrogance, the Iraqi people are not of the type imagined by Bush.

Concluding his statement, Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq has safeguarded, and will continue to safeguard its independence, free will, and tested leadership, regardless of the difficulties it is currently facing. It will face pressures and the U.S. policy of blackmail courageously and determinedly, as it previously affirmed.

RCC's Ibrahim Reacts to Bush's Remarks

JN0610123391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has made a statement to INA reacting to statements made by U.S. President Bush on 4 October. He said: In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. O ye who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear God; That ye may prosper.

As proud believers, our mujahid people, who pride themselves on their glorious history and profound militant heritage, reject all that the U.S. President says about Iraq and its leadership, headed by faithful mujahid, President Saddam Husayn. Having used the United Nations and the Security Council as a tool to achieve his colonialist, aggressive, criminal objectives against Iraq, the U.S. President cannot undermine the will of the great, free Iraqi people, who proved their ability to hold fast and to resist all chapters of the 30-state aggression, seeking the help of God Almighty, and under the faithful and mujahid leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn. Our faithful people will continue to adhere to their freedom, independence, and sincere, mujahid leadership despite all conspiracies concoted by Bush and his allies.

The RCC vice chairman also stressed that these statements by Bush as well as his earlier statements in the same vein, reveal the dimensions of the conspiracy which targeted Iraq prior to the 2 August events. U.S. imperialism along with Zionism and the forces of colonialism and oppression conspired against Iraq and against its struggling leadership prior to the 2 August events, due to its independent national and pan-Arab trend in defense of the rights of Iraq and of the Arab nation. This conspiracy aimed and continues to aim at imposing U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic domination over the entire region, plundering its wealth, and liquidating the Palestine question at the expense of the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine.

The RCC vice chairman also said: This fact fully reveals the clear difference between the texts of the Security Council resolutions—albeit that they are unjust and that they were imposed by the United States—and the position declared by the U.S. president. The U.S. president does not even bother to review the resolutions he imposed on the world, which indicates his (?disregard) for the Security Council and the United Nations, and stresses his colonialist inclination to impose his colonialist will over the world.

The RCC vice chairman called on all peoples and countries that believe in freedom, independence, and genuine international legitimacy to join efforts to expose and resist the aggressive U.S. colonialist trend, and to lift the suffering imposed by U.S. imperialism and its criminal allies on the people of Iraq.

Biographies of Three New RCC Members

JN0510112891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1006 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA)—Below is the biographical data on the three new Revolution Command Council [RCC] members:

'Ali Hasan al-Majid:

Born in Tikrit in 1941. A graduate with distinction from the National Defense Academy, which is affiliated with al-Bakr University for Higher Studies, in 1978. Joined party ranks in 1958. Arrested several times in the wake of the black November 1963 setback. Had the honor of membership in 1964. Became a section command member in 1969. Appointed director general of the Regional Secretariat Office in 1976. Appointed member of the Military Bureau in 1978. Became member of the ninth regional congress of the party in 1982. Elected first reserve member of the Regional Command in 1982. Served afterward as director of the Organizational Committee, and its secretary at the Regional Command. Elected member of the Regional Command on 10 July 1986. Appointed local administration minister on 2 June 1989. Appointed interior minister on 23 March 1991. Reelected member of the party's Regional Command during the 10th regional congress on 13 September 1991. Appointed RCC member on 1 October 1991.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi:

Born in the Babil Governorate in 1938. Appointed adviser at the RCC in the wake of the 17-30 July 1968 revolution. Appointed al-Ta'mim governor in 1977. Appointed adviser to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn with the rank of minister in June 1982. Appointed minister of transport and communications in March 1987. Appointed deputy prime minister in March 1991. Appointed prime minister on 13 September. Joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in 1954. Had the honor of membership in 1958. Arrested, deported, and put under house arrest for his struggle within party ranks. Assumed several party responsibilities before the advent of the 17-30 July 1968 revolution. Appointed secretary of the al-Ramadi section command in 1964. Appointed secretary of the party's central Euphrates branch command in 1964. Elected in February of the same year member of the ninth national congress held in Beirut.

Appointed director general of the Party Regional Command's secretariat. Assumed other responsibilities in the Party's northern and southern organization office. Elected reserve member of the Regional Command in 1977. During the ninth regional conference, he was elected member of the Party's Regional Command. Reelected member of the Regional Command on 10 July 1981. During the 10th regional conference on 13 September 1991, elected member of the Regional Command. Appointed member of the RCC on 1 October 1991.

Mizban Khadr Hadi:

Born in the district of Mandali in the Governorate of Diyala in 1938. Graduated from the Teachers' Training College in 1963. Joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in 1958-1959 and was arrested and dismissed from his post after the November setback in 1963. He became member of a group command before the 17-30 July 1968 revolution. He then became a member of the command of the Diyala Party Section, and later a member of the command of the Diyala Party Branch. In 1978, he became secretary of the Wasit Party Section command. Decorated in 1982 with al-Rafidayn medal of the second degree. Elected member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on 27 June 1982. Reelected member of the Regional Command on 10 July 1986. Elected member of the Party's Regional Command during the 10th regional conference on 13 September 1991. Assumed the position of secretary of the Central Bureau for the Party's Professional and Popular Organization.

He was appointed member of the RCC on 1 October 1991.

Ahmad Husayn Denounces Saudi Ruling Family

JN0510131491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1237 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has denounced Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal's statements against Iraq and its leadership.

In a statement to INA, he said: The Saudi minister's statements reflect the agentry and meanness of the Saudi ruling family, which has placed the land of Islamic sanctities at the disposal of the United States and NATO to commit aggression against a Muslim Arab country, which participated in all the ugly plots of treachery against Iraq, and which spent tens of billions of dollars of the people's money to finance this treacherous aggression.

The foreign minister added that members of a family which is notorious for corruption and tyrannical rule are the last to have the right to speak about the nature of regimes and leaders, not only in the region, but in all parts of the world. The world order has never before seen a regime that is more corrupt, tyrannical, and deviant than the Saudi regime, which, since its inception, has lived under the umbrellas of the British and U.S. colonialists, he noted. This regime squanders billions on the pleasures of its members and their personal greed, and rules its country without heeding any constitution, law, or regulations.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said: The Arab people are well aware of the history of this corrupt family, which was used by the British and Americans against the Arab nation, and exploited as a tool to serve their purposes as well as those of Zionism since the days of 'Abd-al-'Aziz, who agreed to sell out Palestine, since historical documents confirm that Britain and Zionism converged to support his unjust regime.

European Parliament Urged To Help End Blockade

JN0610180091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1653 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA)—The National Assembly has refuted a 12 September European Parliament [EP] resolution blaming Iraq for the homelessness of thousands of Palestinians.

In a letter to the EP, the Assembly said that it ought to have passed a resolution condemning the brutal treatment handed out by Israel to the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories.

The Assembly urged the EP to ascertain the veracity of reports sent by anti-peace circles with the object of impeding a development of ties between Iraq and Europe. It emphasized that life in Iraq was calm and stable.

The Assembly held the vicious 30-nation alliance responsible for forcing the displacement of hundreds of Iraqis in the south of the country to Iran and Saudi Arabia following the aerial bombing of the infrastructure, including electricity and water facilities and bridges.

Prompted by anti-peace forces, the EP is adopting an anti-Iraq line and interfering in the affairs of a UN member nation. Instead, it should be urging a removal of the blockade on Iraq, which has complied with all UN Security Council resolutions, the letter concluded.

Hammadi Reportedly Executed After Failed Coup

NC0710095391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT today quotes informed sources in Tehran as saying that the Iraqi regime recently executed Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council, after having ousted him as Iraqi prime minister.

The same sources attributed Hammadi's execution to the contacts he had with Tehran and other quarters in securing their support for the failed coup that was scheduled to have occurred in Iraq two weeks ago. The failure of the coup resulted in the execution of 76 officers, including Colonel Mahmud Salim, commander of the Hittin unit of the Iraqi Republican Guards.

Saddam Addresses Women's Delegation From Wasit

JN0510201891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a delegation representing women in Wasit Governorate and the Wasit branch of the General Union of Iraqi Women.

President Saddam Husayn said: We must cooperate to quickly cross the states of stagnation and imbalance. If either of these two states persists for a long time, they may lead to collapse, for which we will pay a dear price.

His excellency added: Therefore, emphasis must be placed on the equilibrium between rights and duties. I am confident that, at times, the revolutionary leadership needs to provide fewer rights and demand more duties, or demand fewer duties and provide more rights. This, however, is the exception. The general role should be an equilibrium between rights and duties.

The president added: In al-Qadisiyah, the Iraqi woman was an example to be emulated. This was because the state was able to provide her with what she needed for her home. But I should not hide this fact from the women comrades; the Iraqi woman was not as such in the Mother of Battles. There was a clear gap between the rights which the woman sought, and her fulfillment of the duties when the homeland faced a calamity. Thus, I believe that women in Wasit have raised the ceiling of rights for the Iraqi women in general, not just in Wasit, when some of them cast away the veil and revealed a case which showed that they fulfilled more duties and demanded fewer rights. Within that context, I am proud of the women of Wasit and the Wasit branch of the Women's Union.

His excellency added: The men who were able to undertake their duties in al-Qadisiyah, when action was required to defend Iraq, outnumbered those who were able to undertake certain actions at a certain time to defend Iraq in the Mother of Battles. So, if, for example, the number of men in al-Qadisiyah was 100,000 of the quality we desire, this number dropped in the Mother of Battles on certain days. Time is, of course, significant. For God Almighty created the universe in six days. Why six days, not six years, or in the shortest time possible, since He is the Omnipotent?

God Almighty wants to give time a meaning: an exceptional, not a traditional, meaning. By doing so, God wants to teach man the value of contemplation and patience. God also wants to teach man not to be slow. God could have mentioned in the Koran or told His prophets that He had deliberately sought to create the universe in six years. But God Almighty tells us that He created the universe in six days. Here, I do not mean to engage in theological interpretation, although interpretation is usually the outcome of the thinking of scholars who come up with results in harmony with their contemplation and self-education. I believe, however, that what is meant here is not a long period, not a timeless action, nor an action that prompts man to sacrifice accuracy for speed or to slacken and sacrifice a quick achievement. The upshot of my argument is that there is a decisive, specific period in the life of man and the universe.

His excellency said that the number of men involved in the al-Qadisiyah battle was greater than those who fought the Mother of Battles, and asked why. The answer, he said, lies in the fact that the sacrifices in al-Qadisiyah stretched over eight years, and because our

enemies in the field were from one nation. As for the Mother of Battles, the enemies numbered more than 30 nations. And the time span in the latter epic, from the first salvo unleashed on Baghdad until the cease-fire with the vicious and aggressive alliance, did not exceed 43 days. This means that fewer men had to take such pressure. All the men who were honored led by the martyrs were honored on behalf of all other men. [sentence as received] The contribution of the glorious Iraqi women in Wasit Governorate and the other glorious women who refused to surrender their weapons—when there were men who gave up their arms under certain circumstances—earned them the epithet of glorious women, thus inviting the ire of all the vicious circles in the world. Their distinguished actions have rubbed off on the women of Wasit Governorate and beyond.

The question to be asked now is: Did the battle end with the fall of the last bombs. The battle did not target a material object as such but the essence of the new life, the new spirit, the new faith, and the future that has to do with the new present. Thus, we have to respond to all the missiles that are launched at us with the aim of hitting the new human being by nurturing the new individual. We have to respond to all those who labor under the illusion that they will be able to bury the future, being shaped by the new individual and that hinges on the present, by securing the firmly based requirements for this future.

His excellency said: Then all evil will be left behind us and all the good will be in front of us and in our grasp. This good is based on a heritage replete with high human values. What would this require? I believe that the women's role is more important than it was when bombs were being dropped on Baghdad, Wasit, al-Basrah, and Zakho, and on all Iraqi areas. The role of women is required because they are the leaders of the house. This is because the enemy's weapon is now aimed at the economy, coupled with psychological influence through the media and other things.

His excellency added: If a woman holds herself together and makes of herself an able administrator of her home, aware of what is going around her and understanding life, she will be able to consolidate her leading role and refute the allegations that the Iraqi woman is no longer fit for work or deserving of the care which the Iraqi leadership provides her. This the woman can express every day—day and night.

His excellency noted that a man can express this in a short time. A woman's ability for expression is greater because she has almost all time at her disposal. Switching off the lights before retiring and leaving only one lamp on to light the house is an important role for the woman. So also is controlling heating and refrigeration and electric machines and other machines that use fuel. This is also important because it is part of the means of controlling the amount of food consumption and distribution.

His excellency said: Thus, the women's role has many colors but the man's role is of one color. The man spends 12 hours at work. He may be assigned the task of repairing a machine in these 12 hours. But a woman might perform thirty chores in one day and with a performance quality that could be better than that of the man in repairing the machine. Who will open women's eyes to this role?

It is first and foremost the Women's Union. The modes of action of the Women's Union, should, therefore, not be conventional and they ought therefore not to fall back on the traditional methods that we adopted prior to the Mother of Battles. That is how you are now known. I mean you, the women of Wasit, where some men left the area and their positions even though they were in lower places than you and could not be spotted by enemy aircraft. You were situated in a conspicuously high building and thus your headquarters was vulnerable. Sometimes the enemies bombed certain buildings merely as an expression of rancor and as a kind of wanton destruction that gave vent to the fixations of the enemies over Iraq's present period. But the Wasit branch of the Iraqi Women's Union stayed put and did not leave their headquarters. I do not mean to say that they did not leave the headquarters because they enjoyed its warmth, but rather so they could fulfill their daily tasks there. Some men shirked even their daily duties, thus losing their way; others lost their color, and still others began to babble. In contrast, the color of others became clearer and they began to speak in high and clear voices. This is the way of Iraqi women. Under all circumstances, we find that their conduct is rooted in faith and sometimes that conduct is based on the momentum of faith. Sometimes faith is not sufficient to prompt action. Faith is a sort of energy, which if it fails to come in the right amount and quality, will not be able to generate action. Some people lacked the required amount and quality of action and, therefore, they failed to act or missed their opportunity to act. Yet such people are, in any case, superior to those who have, thus far, failed to do anything. Luckily, these are just a few.

Action during great historical events sometimes cannot be described properly unless it is described in terms of the circumstances surrounding it. Had the circumstances surrounding the Wasit Governorate branch of the Iraqi Women's Union been more favorable, we would not have described it so charitably. But, despite a breakdown in order there, the Wasit branch of the Iraqi Women's Union continued to play its role, and these are the right principles and this is the right attitude.

At the end of the meeting, his excellency the leader president saluted the Wasit branch of the Iraqi Women's Union and the women of Wasit Governorate, and glorious Iraqi women throughout the country.

Sources 'Amazed' at 'Harshness' of U.S. Memo

TA0610081691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The U.S. position on the assurances it is prepared to give Israel has become more intransigent as the peace conference approaches. This has emerged from the draft memorandum of understanding Yitzhaq Shamir received late last week.

High-level political sources who read the draft were amazed by the harshness of some of the clauses. Our political correspondent has obtained information on the full content of the memorandum of understanding proposed by the United States.

The clauses that amazed the prime minister's circles are: "Israel knows that it will not have veto rights over the composition of the Palestinian delegation," and "Israel knows that the United States does not recognize the annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and that these topics should be left for negotiations between the parties."

At a meeting late last week between Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington, and Dennis Ross, Secretary Baker's senior aide, the latter explained that Baker insists that Israel respond to the draft in a few days.

Last night political sources expressed their view that the text of the memorandum of understanding handed over to Israel at the end of the week was meant to apply pressure on Israel to make do with a general letter of assurances from the United States, as Baker offered during his latest visit to Israel. If Israel insists on receiving a memorandum of understanding, this will obligate the United States to express its views on contentious issues which are expected to be discussed in the negotiations.

The draft memorandum of understanding delivered by the United States further says that "Israel enters the negotiating process recognizing the Palestinians' legitimate rights. The negotiations with the Palestinians will be aimed toward establishing self-rule, and Israel will make a sincere effort to conclude the negotiations and will enter, no later than in three years, negotiations on a permanent solution for the territories."

The United States again promises Israel that it will not be forced to negotiate in the conference with any party with whom it does not wish to sit down. It will also consider the promises made by President Ford regarding the future of the Golan Heights. (In 1975 President Ford wrote a letter in which he promised that the United States will consider Israel's security interests on the Golan Heights.) Israel was also given to understand that the United States would be prepared to send troops to secure the borders agreed upon between Israel and the Arab countries.

Dennis Ross told Ambassador Shoval that James Baker is motivated by the understanding that it would be possible to hold the conference at the end of the month. The venue currently proposed for the peace conference is Lausanne, Switzerland.

Shamir Aide Comments

TA0610171391 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Text] [Margalit] The United States has sent Israel a draft of the proposed memorandum of understanding, which states, I quote, that Israel knows that it will not have veto rights over the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Shim'on Schiffer, who reported this scoop in today's YEDI'OT AHARONOT, claimed that political sources in Jerusalem were amazed by the wording of the draft. Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office is in our studio. Good evening.

[Ben-Aharon] Good evening, Dan.

[Margalit] Were we surprised that the Americans are not letting us have the right to veto the composition of the Palestinian delegation? Did the United States promise us anything else in our previous contacts?

[Ben-Aharon] We were not surprised, and Shim'on Schiffer's report is incomplete. We should not, therefore, focus solely on that report. There is some dissatisfaction in Jerusalem regarding our dialogue with the United States over the memorandum of understanding, and not because of the point you raised earlier that was emphasized in the newspaper. Our dissatisfaction stems from the fact that the United States is collecting everything that was said over the years regarding Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, the future of the territories, the borders between Israel and the Arab countries, as well as the future of Jerusalem—and is incorporating all this in the memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States. Those issues will probably also figure in the parallel documents between the United States and the Arab countries.

[Margalit] In other words then, this is okay with Israel, because Israel knows that this is the U.S. position?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, you can take a whole series of statements and then ignore the counterbalancing statements that were made at other opportunities by the same administration and present a picture that is amenable to one party but exasperating to the other. Our problem is this: We have urged the United States to refrain as much as possible from addressing the issues that are to be dealt with in the negotiations and to let the actual parties sit down to talks, without the United States stating its position.

[Margalit] The United States is not stopping us from negotiating; it is only saying that if we want a memorandum of understanding, then we must know its positions. For example, the United States notes in the draft, and I quote: that Israel knows—and this is what Washington is proposing—that the United States does not recognize the annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and those topics should be left for negotiations between the parties. The United States does not reject negotiations; it is only saying that if Israel wants a memorandum of understanding, then Jerusalem has to know that those are the U.S. positions. What is wrong with that?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, but we believe that every U.S. expression of a position—which is then interpreted by the Arab countries to constitute support of their own positions, or a questioning of Israel's stance—can only lead to problems and obstacles in the negotiations. There is no need for these documents or memorandums of understanding to express the U.S. opinion regarding the nature of the final product of the negotiation process.

[Margalit] The United States has not said that it is getting into that. It has stated that everything will be dealt with during the negotiations and discussed later. Washington just wants us to know the U.S. position so Israel has no reason to be surprised.

[Ben-Aharon] No, I think that the presentation of several of those positions by the United States already infringes on the content of the negotiations. You mentioned only one of the points, and there are many other issues. That problem figures in all of them.

[Margalit] If that is the case, then was it a mistake on Israel's part to ask for a memorandum of understanding, a request that has been attributed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir? Would it have been wiser to settle for the much more limited and far less binding letter of assurances that Foreign Minister David Levi is said to have preferred?

[Ben-Aharon] A memorandum of understanding was the document we signed and agreed upon with the United States each time we were at the crossroads of important negotiations with the Arab world. This was the case after the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War, the Lebanon war, and the peace agreement with Egypt. Since Israel is in the position of the defending party—after all, everyone is coming to demand territory and concessions from us—we must attribute great importance to what will be decided between ourselves and the United States prior to the negotiations, both with regard to the procedural aspects of the negotiations and with regard to the composition of the Palestinian delegation that you commented upon earlier. Here, I would also just like to add that what you quoted earlier—that Israel will not have veto rights—is inaccurate, because the draft states that Israel will not be forced to sit down with any party it finds unacceptable. That means that if Israel oppose any participant who is connected to the PLO, then that man or woman will not appear in the Palestinian delegation.

[Margalit] What you are saying then is that, as far as Israel is concerned, Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni cannot participate in the Palestinian delegation. That is clearly Israel's position, but the United States is saying that Israel cannot have veto rights. So, if tomorrow the Palestinians want to include in their delegation an East Jerusalem resident who is also a Jordanian, or even a Palestinian who has U.S. citizenship, let us say a teacher at Princeton or some other U.S. university....[changes thought] Ah, now I see you are smiling; maybe this is the very point.

[Ben-Aharon, laughing] Neither you nor I are composing the delegation, after all. I can only say that we have made a decision, and that is what caused the government crisis last year. That position was accepted by the secretary of state when he visited us the first time and said there would be no resident of East Jerusalem and no one from the Palestinian diaspora. He said that the United States accepted Israel's position and that there would be a delegation to represent the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Now, if there are any attempts to circumvent that, there will be a problem.

[Margalit] Let me understand that point. Does Israel prefer a memorandum of understanding that includes the expression of a U.S. position that is disagreeable to us, or would Israel prefer a letter of assurances that is less detailed and guarantees less, but is also less disturbing and distressing?

[Ben-Aharon] We would prefer a memorandum of understanding, and we would like that memorandum to confirm all the assurances we received in the past, and to set the stage for the negotiations in a way that would be acceptable to Israel.

[Margalit] So we are still insisting on a memorandum of understanding and not a letter of assurances?

[Ben-Aharon] We still want a memorandum of understanding.

[Margalit] Thank you, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

Further Ben-Aharon Comment

TA0610175991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Shlomo Ganor at the Prime Minister's Office on 6 October—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Does Israel insist on having the right to veto the composition of the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation?

[Ben-Aharon] That is not the way it should be presented. We do not want to decide who represents the Palestinians; we do have the right, however, to decide who cannot represent them, because we cannot work with such people. We believe that there are enough Arabs in Eretz Yisra'el who can represent the population of the territories with honor.

[Ganor] Mr. Ben-Aharon, what should the memorandum of understanding include?

[Ben-Aharon] First of all, it should reconfirm promises and agreements between Israel and the United States that were made throughout the entire history of this process—promises from 1967, 1973, 1975, 1979, 1982—as well as the means of applying those understandings to the new circumstances, and the way to approach the process on the basis of understandings between Israel and the United States, which will fulfill the role of honest broker [last two words in English].

[Ganor] Is there a U.S. readiness to agree to Israel's requests?

[Ben-Aharon] There is a certain degree of readiness; there are still problems, however, because the United States seeks to issue parallel documents and assurances to all the parties in the process, and it would like to prevent contradictions. Certain parties have presented conflicting demands and the United States is making great efforts to resolve the contradictions. It has still not finished the job.

[Ganor] Will Israel refuse to attend the conference if it does not get the memorandum of understanding?

[Ben-Aharon] This is not an ultimatum or a condition. Clearly, there must be an understanding between Israel and the United States, so that everything is clear and Israel can participate, and so the United States will know what role Israel and each of the other participants are to play.

[Ganor] Do you feel that the United States has reneged on promises given to Israel in the last few months?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I would only say that there are some difficulties and that the more the process moves forward, the closer we come to the core of the real and difficult problems. That is when the obstacles appear and it becomes harder to make progress.

[Ganor] Mr. Ben-Aharon, in all honesty, do you believe that the peace conference will convene in the foreseeable future?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not like to make bets. I would say that we are at a critical stage in which things could go either way. We will be wiser after the secretary of state's visit. [passage omitted]

Shoval Conveys U.S. Warning on Future of Ties

TA0710091391 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The United States has warned Israel against attempting to foil the peace conference, as this could affect the future of relations between the two countries.

The warning is included in a detailed report conveyed by Ambassador Shoval to Jerusalem on the eve of Secretary of State James Baker's arrival on another tour of the region early next week.

Ambassador Shoval recommends that Jerusalem forgo the demand for a U.S. memorandum of understanding prior to the conference because this would obligate the United States to hand similar memorandums to the Palestinians and the Arab countries as well. Baker's advisers made it clear that Israel can avoid the embarrassment and an argument with the administration if it waives its demand for a memorandum of understanding and makes do with a letter of assurances.

People in the prime minister's bureau, however, said yesterday that in his talks with Baker, Yitzhaq Shamir will stand firm on Israel's demand for a memorandum of understanding that will prevent surprises in the future during the negotiations with the Arabs.

Washington, meanwhile, is furious with the leak of the draft memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel.

The main points in Ambassador Shoval's message to the prime minister:

—Israel is advised to give up its demand for a U.S. memorandum of understanding prior to the conference, as this will obligate the United States to give the Palestinians and the Arab countries similar memorandums.

—In the memorandum of understanding with Israel, the United States intends to raise its "traditional" positions, including opposition to the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

—A memorandum of understanding will force Israel to sign commitments that it will have to abide by in the course of the negotiations, such as: recognition of the Palestinians' legitimate rights, negotiations toward the establishment of self-rule, and finding a permanent solution to the Palestinian problem.

—Regarding the Palestinian representation: The United States is not prepared to grant Israel veto rights over the composition of the Palestinian delegation. It is likewise not prepared to make promises regarding how it will act if the Palestinian delegation announces, in the course of the negotiations, that it is representing the PLO.

—The United States suggests that the memorandum of understanding include a statement that it will be prepared to express its position on contentious issues that will be raised in the negotiations, should one party request that. Shamir's associates strongly oppose this. They believe that in presenting the issue in this manner, the United States is backtracking on its earlier declarations that it will act as an honest broker who will not interfere in bilateral negotiations.

Ne'eman Suggests Munich as Venue for Peace Talks

TA0610120991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] The cabinet did not hold a political debate at its weekly meeting this morning, which dealt mainly with the public health system. The ministers were not briefed on the latest contacts over the memorandum of understanding with the Americans. Is the United States refusing to grant Israel the right to veto the Palestinian representation? Will the United States mention in the memorandum of understanding its support for an Israeli withdrawal from all the territories, including Jerusalem? None of the ministers we asked knew the answers.

After the meeting, Minister Yuval Ne'eman suggested cynically that the peace conference be held in Munich, Germany.

[Begin Ne'eman recording] The United States does not conceal the fact—it has in fact declared as much—that it endorses almost every point of the Arab approach. The United States has announced supporting a return to pre-1967 borders in every sector, including Jerusalem. In addition, the United States has declared its support for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon—us, but not the Syrians. Thus, since the United States has in fact embraced the Arab stance, there is no reason for us to accept a mediator who is partial to the other side.

I have a constructive proposal regarding the conference: A site is being sought, and I suggest we opt for Munich. I think it is an appropriate location. [end recording]

[Also reporting on the cabinet meeting, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 6 October says: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has denied the report that the government permitted Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi to attend the Palestine National Council. Speaking at this morning's cabinet meeting, Shamir rejected suggestions that the government had promised not to prosecute the two East Jerusalem Arab leaders."

[A later report by Jack Katzenell on the same newscast adds: "In the words of Health Minister Ehud Olmert, a close confidant of Prime Minister Shamir, it would be ridiculous to prosecute the two Palestinian leaders at this stage in the peace process."]

Bush Seen Behind Rejected Military Aid Request

TA0710053791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] In Washington, Congress has turned down an Israeli request for $200 million in additional military aid. Israeli diplomats believe the U.S. refusal is the result of the Bush administration's anger over the loan guarantees controversy. More from Ya'aqov Rosenberg:

Some Israeli defense officials had urged that Jerusalem request an additional $700 million in military aid for fiscal 1992. Defense Minister Moshe Arens, however, trimmed the proposal to a final request of $200 million in additional help, for a total of $2 billion in annual military aid. The request was submitted to Congress two weeks ago and was earmarked for research and development projects needed in the wake of the Gulf war. The small aid request, however, did not matter. A joint committee of Senate and House voted against even discussing an aid increase to Israel. The joint committee did not issue a formal explanation, but Israeli diplomats in Washington said the congressional committee's decision was no doubt influenced by President Bush, who last month convinced Congress to rule out any consideration of Israel's request for $10 billion in loan guarantees for immigrant absorption until at least next February. The feeling among many of these diplomats is that Bush's swift and brutal rejection of the loan guarantees is already affecting other Israeli aid requests and is weakening Jerusalem's position in Washington.

Israel's military industries will be hardest hit by the failure to secure the additional funds. Israeli defense officials said the congressional move could first hurt their influence in the Pentagon. They say that for the past six years, Israel was always assured that Pentagon support for military aid would not be affected by the political climate in Washington. That now appears to have been a false hope.

Link Between Aid, Guarantees Denied

TA0710093191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Military sources have said that the report that Congress decided not to increase military aid to Israel because of the guarantees matter is untrue. They told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that a debate on the issue was indeed held, but this was within a broader framework wherein Congress sought ways to increase aid to several countries; all of the requests were rejected, without any link to the guarantees issue.

Shamir Said To Reject Likud Compromise Proposal

TA0710092491 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Oct 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Moti Bassok and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Senior Likud members have urged the prime minister to offer the United States a compromise proposal, in which it will be suggested that the U.S. Administration agree to apply the withdrawal clause in UN Security Council Resolution 242 to the northern and southern sectors only, but not to the central one. 'AL HAMISHMAR learned this from senior sources.

As far as is known, Yitzhaq Shamir has refused to accept the proposal, which stands little chance of being accepted by the United States, the Palestinians, or the Jordanians. Senior Likud officials nevertheless believe that the plan would make it possible to make some progress along the lines of the "Gaza first" formula, and that it offers a chance for progress in the negotiations with Syria without altering the status quo over the West Bank. [passage omitted]

'Surprising' Willingness in Likud To Cede Land

TA0510082391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] A survey on political and personal issues which was conducted by Likud elements among members of the Likud Central Committee turned up surprising findings regarding the topical political issues. Our correspondent Ya'el Nir reports that 44 percent of the respondents expressed willingness to cede parts of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip within the framework of a real peace agreement with Jordan and the Palestinians, while 48 percent opposed any concessions.

On the question of the Golan Heights, 53 percent were willing to give up part of the Golan Heights on condition that the area be demilitarized and that this be within the framework of a peace agreement with Syria. However, 42 percent opposed any concessions on the Golan Heights.

Regarding the U.S. demand to freeze settlement activities, almost 50 percent of Likud Central Committee members said that they accept calling a freeze on new settlements only. A little less than half, 46 percent, oppose any halt in settlement activity.

As for personal preferences, 71 percent asserted that they would back Yitzhaq Shamir if he presented his candidacy for another term as prime minister. If Shamir refrained from running, Moshe Arens would receive the support of 34 percent of the members and Ari'el Sharon would win 27 percent of the votes, while David Levi would receive 25 percent.

The survey also shows that Knesset Members Binyamin Netanyahu and Beni Begin hold prominent positions, right behind the senior Likud leadership.

Shamir Tells Settlers Settlement Will Continue

TA0610203091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening told representatives of the Council of Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip that Israel will not deviate from its principles, including the continuation of settlement activity. This was reported by our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchtfeld.

The representatives of the Council of Settlements asked Shamir to prevent Israel from participating in the peace conference, because they believed that it is a rigged game. The Council will convene in two days to discuss the meeting and decide upon the steps it will take.

Peace Now—New Settlement Near Mount Hebron

TA0510114791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Members of Peace Now say they have discovered a new settlement in the territories, south of Mount Hebron. A Peace Now spokesman said Arab workers are preparing the grounds on the spot for the stationing of mobile homes. He said some 50 housing units had already been placed there. The spokesman accused the government of creating the settlement to frustrate the peace process.

Housing Ministry Denies

TA0510145391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Arye Bar, Construction and Housing Ministry director general, has said that he does not know of any new settlement or of construction over the past few days in the settlement of Metzad in the Hebron Hills. He said this to our correspondent Shmu'el Tal in response to a Peace Now report that its members this morning visited the site and found 50 mobile homes that were placed there two days ago, and Arab workers preparing the grounds for a new settlement.

Survey of West Bank Settlement Drive

TA0610100291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Oct 91 p 3

[Report by Natan Ro'i]

[Text] Construction in the West Bank has assumed such proportions that many Jewish settlements will soon be recognized as independent local councils. This is the impression of senior officials of the World Zionist Organization's [WZO] settlement department, who recently conducted a survey in several settlements.

The officials formed the view that some settlements were receiving growing numbers of Soviet immigrants, who are taken in without the intervention of absorption authorities, sometimes directly from Ben-Gurion Airport.

Here is the survey's data on some of the settlements:

—Yaqir: 30 light-structure units are under way; contracts have been signed for 36 regular housing units, which are under construction; eight units are being

negotiated with a building contractor; 30 units are in planning stages, and land lots have been assigned; 10 trailers were received from the Construction and Housing Ministry and seven from Amana [Gush Emunim settling body].

—Qedumim is in the midst of a colossal building drive; it is expected to grow by about 520 housing units within a year. The Qedumim master plan envisions another 600 housing units on areas outside the settlement's designated territory. A talk with Qedumim officials indicated that the WZO settlement department was no longer in charge, since the officials said the settlement wished to be under the auspices of the Construction and Housing Ministry's Urban Construction Department.

Here is a breakdown on housing projects in Qedumim: Qedumim North—120 standard housing units; 39 units built independently by owners; 400 in planning. Mitzpe Qedumim—181 standard units. Qedumim South—68 standard light structures. Qedumim East—120 standard housing units; 80 to 100 campers and mobile homes. In addition, a new structure has been built for Hebrew classes.

—'Enav: 40 standard units; 30 standard light structures; five trailers. A local electronics plant employs 40 people. A second 600-meter industrial structure is still vacant. Hebrew classes for 15 immigrants are held in cooperation with the regional council; the school is now tutoring a second class of immigrants. Four families from the first class remained in the settlement and applied for residence rights.

—Shavey Shomron: The settlement is undergoing an administration and financial crisis. Some 20 housing units are being built by private entrepreneurs. There is a dire land shortage. The only possible expansion venue is a neighboring army camp, and the settlement has asked the WZO settlement department for financing.

[Reporting on "the new settlement established last weekend" "about 2 km east of the settlement of Metzad," Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 6 October adds, in a page 4 report by Yoram Binur and Doron Me'iri: "HADASHOT has learned that the 'Ezyon Bloc regional council is not involved in the establishment of the site in the south Hebron Hills. Local sources said that about 10 days ago, residents of Metzad, which abuts the site, demolished the eastern fence of their settlement, apparently in a bid to link up with the new site."

[The report quotes the Construction and Housing Ministry spokesman as denying any knowledge of a new settlement and stating that "every new settlement requires the prime minister's approval. The ministry does not establish settlements on its own will."]

Moda'i for Building 'Where People Want To Live'

TA0510105191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] On the eve of peace negotiations, settlers on the Golan Heights are demanding an increase in settlements and investments there. Can you, and will you, accept their financial demands regarding the Golan Heights right now?

[Moda'i] I know of no specific financial demands. They visited me and I sat down with Golan Heights representatives and local council leaders for quite a long time. Of course, they expressed a desire that the infrastructure be expanded and that there be more building. I, however, will state one thing very clearly: Not only is a country incapable of raising several ideological and financial banners at the same time, it is also incapable of simultaneously carrying out such a tremendous investment and construction effort throughout the entire country. An order of priorities must be set.

[Talmor] What is your order of priorities?

[Moda'i] I have already stated it. The fundamental order of priority is to build where people want to live. Some of the apartments can be built in areas where people do not prefer to live but would be willing to live under certain incentives.

[Talmor] Does this include the territories?

[Moda'i] The Israeli Government's policy is definitely to settle the territories—but not with immigrants—and to increase and strengthen settlement in the territories. This is nothing new. We are basically continuing this process. We did not even step up construction activity there at the same rate we stepped up construction and infrastructure development in other parts of the country, but at a slightly lower rate. On the other hand, it is impossible to expect that while there is at least a fourfold or fivefold increase in construction activity throughout the rest of Israel, these territories, which are at the focus of an intense political debate, will be left behind. This simply does not make sense.

[Talmor] Mr. Finance Minister, it is now already clear that the discussion of Israel's request for loan guarantees for immigrant absorption will be postponed at least until next January. It still remains unclear, however, if new political conditions will not be posed again then by the U.S. Administration. In what position will the Israeli economy find itself if there are any additional delays in the endorsement of these guarantees?

[Moda'i] The Israeli economy will find itself in a worse position than it would be were there no further holdups, but it will survive and that is what counts. I am still sure that we will get the loan guarantees after 120 days

without any political conditions because we have already declared that we will not accept guarantees that are made contingent on political conditions. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Return, Face Interrogation

TA0610163191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi returned from abroad this afternoon. An Israel Police spokesman announced that the two were informed, upon their arrival, that the police plan to summon them for interrogation. Our correspondent adds that the two were not detained for questioning at the airport.

Refuse Comment on PNC Attendance

TA0610183791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Report by Gil Litman from news conference at Faysal al-Husayni's home in East Jerusalem]

[Text] The first two questions Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi were asked were, of course, whether they visited Algiers and if they met there with PLO leaders. Faysal al-Husayni replied that on their way to London they had a stopover in Paris. He added:

[Begin recording] That is not the question; the question is whether or not we did everything necessary for the peace move. The second question I am prepared to answer only in court. [end recording]

He and Hanan 'Ashrawi landed at Ben-Gurion Airport at 1600, and, according to al-Husayni, police were awaiting them there.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] There were policemen, and they told us that within several days we might receive a summons to be interrogated. [end recording]

Faysal al-Husayni also said that he and 'Ashrawi received from Secretary of State Baker an invitation to meet with him in the United States and that they will leave for Washington this week.

To repeat, the two refused to say whether they met with PLO officials or what messages they transmitted.

Menem Leaves for Egypt; Shamir Warns 'Neighbors'

TA0410142791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] At this time, Argentine President Carlos Menem is ending his visit in Israel and is leaving for Egypt. Addressing a news conference at the conclusion of his visit here, President Menem said he will meet Egypt's President Mubarak, probably at Cairo Airport, and will convey messages to him from Prime Minister Shamir, President Herzog, and Knesset Member Peres. He made it clear that he does not intend to meet PLO leader 'Arafat during his visit to Tunisia, adding that Argentina has recognized the PLO as an organization, not as a state.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that earlier today, President Menem conferred with the prime minister. Yitzhaq Shamir told his guest that some of our neighbors—who pay lip service to peace negotiations in the belief that they will bring Israel to face a court martial that will make its decisions in accordance with UN resolutions—are making a big mistake and are in for a disappointment.

Shamir Aide Denies Message Sent

TA0610085291 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Oct 91 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Gilat and Moshe Perl]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ehud Gol, the prime minister's media adviser, yesterday denied reports that Shamir delivered an official message to President Mubarak on political issues via the Argentine president.

Lubrani Interviewed on Hostage Negotiations

TA0410122591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Oct 91 p 17

[Report on interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Hana Zemer; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [DAVAR] Why is the handling of the hostage deal, which was already wrapped up in principle with the UN secretary general, taking so long?

[Lubrani] These things have their own tempo. This is an irrational situation, and therefore cannot be explained in a rational manner. These elements have their own time frames, and anyone who is unwilling to swim with the tide simply flounders. It is also par for the course that there be crisis periods, and we are in the midst of such a crisis now.

[DAVAR] What is the essence of this crisis?

[Lubrani] The commitment we were given was not fully upheld. We released the 51 prisoners and delivered nine bodies. In return, the secretary general was promised that we would get full and complete information about Alshekh and Fink; as you know, we received adequate information about Alshekh only. We will not move forward until we receive satisfactory information, and let no one delude themselves otherwise.

[DAVAR] Did British hostage Mann's release have anything to do with the deal on the 51 prisoners and nine bodies?

[Lubrani] It appears so; however, it is not exactly tit for tat. It is much more complex and intricate. At any rate,

during his visit to Tehran in the second week of September, Perez de Cuellar was apparently promised that one or two Western hostages would be released following his visit, and he was told that this would take place after Israel released the 51 prisoners and nine bodies. We were committed to execute this release only after receiving the information we demanded regarding Rahamim Alshekh and Yosef Fink.

[DAVAR] Yet we released the prisoners even though our demands were not fulfilled.

[Lubrani] That is true, but not entirely accurate. We made a gesture to alleviate the suffering of certain people, but our action was not sufficiently appreciated. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] Is Israel being pressured to move ahead faster?

[Lubrani] There are expectations from all quarters. Israel, however, will not move forward until it gets the information on Fink. It is better to say a small "nyet" now than to have to say a bigger "nyet" later.

[DAVAR] When asked when the whole business would be over, Lubrani expressed the belief that it would all be resolved in the foreseeable future. He remains cautious, however. One can never know what could be detrimental to the process. Lubrani claims that one of the most unique and difficult phenomena in this matter is the fact that we are working "in the dark." We are guessing and groping without any real knowledge. This is because neither Israel nor other elements involved in the matter have managed to figure Hizballah out. Therefore, even if there are suppositions and signals regarding time frames—such as the UN secretary general's desire to wind up the matter before resigning his post at the end of this year—it is difficult to be sure of anything, and any declarations or announcements are definitely out of the question. Lubrani says that everything is "extremely sensitive."

The secretary general has also taken upon himself to deal with the matter of the three Israeli soldiers who have been missing since the battle of Sultan Ya'aqub—Feldman, Katz, and Baumel. The address here is a different one—Palestinian-Syrian—but Israel considers all the issues to constitute one package, and Lubrani says that as far as he is concerned, what matters is that "we can get up in the morning and look at ourselves in the mirror without lowering our eyes and can tell ourselves that we have done everything a country could do to search for its soldiers." [passage omitted]

U.S. Letter of Assurances to Syria Reported

TA1007093991 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 7 Oct 91 p 1

[Report from Jerusalem by the political correspondent]

[Excerpt] In its proposed letter of assurances to Syria, the United States says that the basis for the regional peace conference is Resolutions 242 and 338, which include a withdrawal from all the territories. This was learned in Jerusalem.

The letter will also state that the negotiations will be direct, but that the conference will meet every two weeks in a forum that will include representatives from the United States, the USSR, the United Nations, Israel, and the Arab countries.

The letter of assurances to Syria does not include a U.S. pledge that the Israeli settlement drive will be frozen, but it condemns it. It also includes a promise to provide Syria with financial assistance. [passage omitted]

Official Leaves for Regional Talks in Egypt

TA0710101491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Yig'al Bibi, deputy minister of ecology and environmental protection, has left for Egypt to attend an environmental protection conference to be attended by ministers from countries surrounding the Mediterranean basin. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Bibi will stay in Egypt for four days and will meet with Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali and Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali. He will convey to them Israel's request that Egypt support the repeal of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism.

2d Round Jordan-PLO Talks; Husayn To Speak

JN0510125491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian-Palestinian talks have continued in Amman. A second meeting was held at noon today at the Prime Ministry. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Tahir al-Masri, prime minister; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, King Husayn's political adviser; Kamil Abu-Jabir, foreign minister; Mahmud al-Sharif, information minister; and Nabih al-Nimr, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt and member of the political committee in charge of following up the peace conference affairs.

Representing the Palestinian side at the meeting were PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abdallah Hurani, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Sulayman al-Najjab, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestine ambassador to Jordan.

Sources close to the Palestinian delegation said that the PLO Executive Committee, which will hold a meeting in Tunis next Wednesday [9 October] to distribute the portfolios to its members, also will discuss the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks on the joint coordination between the two parties within the framework of the preparations for the peace conference.

An informed source said that the Amman talks also dealt with the mechanism to form the joint delegation. It is known that the final decision regarding the PLO will be made by the PLO Central Council.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to visit Jordan in mid-October after King Husayn has addressed a comprehensive speech to his people. The king will deliver his speech next Thursday to political and national personalities in the country. It has been learned that this speech will praise the Palestine National Council resolutions which gave a green light to Palestinian participation in the peace process. The speech also will contain a political analysis of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and the present peace opportunity.

King Confers With Delegation

JN0510160491 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Amman, 5 Oct (PETRA)—At the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Mahmud 'Abbas, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Sulayman al-Najjab, members of the PLO Executive Committee. His majesty exchanged views with the Palestinian officials on the latest peace efforts and the importance of coordinating an Arab stance toward these efforts. The meeting was attended by his majesty the king's political adviser; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty's military secretary; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Al-Masri: Land for Peace Key to Conference

PM0410114491 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 2 Oct 91 p 14

[Interview with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri by Patrick Bishop on 1 October; place not given]

[Text] When Arab delegates sit down with Israelis at the proposed Middle East peace conference they will demand an immediate halt to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Mr. Tahir al-Masri, Jordan's prime minister, said in an interview yesterday.

"We have to succeed in that," he said. "That means that the object of the peace conference—to exchange land for peace—is being accepted."

The freezing of the settlements, which were described by Mr. al- Masri as "malignant" and "cancerous", will be the first test of whether there is enough slack in the Israeli and Arab positions to allow the conference to continue beyond its ceremonial opening session. But the prime minister was careful to say it would not be the Arabs who walked out first. "World opinion is supporting the convening of this conference," he said.

"We don't want the conference to fail from day one, and I don't think the world will allow it.

"Maybe it would be in the interest of Israel to do that and to prolong the procedure to continue with their settlements. But I believe that once the conference convenes, once we meet face to face, there will be some dynamics that will pressure both sides to reach an agreement."

Mr. al-Masri said the likelihood was that the conference would open some time between the end of this month and the first week of next, probably in The Hague or Lausanne.

The Palestinian representatives would form half of the joint delegation with Jordan.

"It will be two delegations in one, meaning that there will be a leader of the delegation but inside the conference there will be two rooms," Mr. al-Masri said.

"The Palestinians will be talking separately with the Israelis and the Jordanians with the Israelis."

Mr. al-Masri, a West Bank Palestinian by origin, spoke of twin- track discussions, one set focusing on the Palestinian question, the other on Israel's relations with its neighbours.

He described the prospect of the peace conference as "an historic moment where you are turning round 180 degrees"

"In the minds of the Palestinians and the Arabs in general, Israel is a taboo," he added. "Peace with Israel is

a taboo. After the Gulf crisis suddenly the (Arab) individual is realising that very soon there might be a face-to-face meeting with Israelis. He cannot accept this idea very easily.

"We in the Arab world feel...that we are negotiating with Israel at the weakest point in our recent history, and the world is divided.

"There is no superpower to balance American power, and Israel is enjoying the almost total support of the United States.

"Now our philosophy, our theme, is: What is the alternative for the Palestinians and Arabs? The Soviet Union is supplying Israel with immigrants and the US is supplying it with dollars.

"Both elements are joining forces to establish settlements in the occupied territories, and these settlements are cancerous. They are malignant and they are spreading."

The Prime Minister said the Arabs had long ago accepted that the only way of resolving the conflict with Israel was by political means.

"We should go all the way for that political solution. You cannot walk half way...we must try it up to the end.

"If the meeting with the Israelis does not bear fruit, this does not mean added security or stability for Israel. This means we are planting the seeds for a new war.

"The Arabs are not going to the conference to surrender. They are going to regain their rights, regain the territory that was occupied, and we feel that everybody in this world including half of Israeli society has accepted the fact that these are occupied territories, which means Israel should withdraw."

Al-Masri: 'No Choice' But To Reshuffle Cabinet

JN0510124091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Putting the House in Order"]

[Text] The first reshuffle in the cabinet of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri involving five portfolios aims first and foremost to end the paralysis that has afflicted the government ever since talk of an impending change started two weeks ago, but more importantly it is intended to consolidate cabinet ranks on the eve of the prospective peace talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is an open secret that the al-Masri government had been a coalition of various political figures that sang different tunes not only vis-a-vis peace talks but also with regard to several domestic issues. The end result has been a futile attempt to reconcile the irreconcilable among the cabinet members who often gave vivid expression to such division by threatening to resign at every turn or juncture. So on the plus side of the ledger, the reshuffled government should no longer be a divided house unable to speak and think on one wavelength.

On the surface, the al-Masri cabinet has been somewhat weakened by the departure of three cabinet ministers who were also key members of the Lower House of Parliament. By having three votes less in any parliamentary showdown in the future, the government's strength will be decreased accordingly. The shakeup has also revealed that there is considerable internal bickering and divisions between the political parties that have joined the al-Masri government in the first place. With some members of the principal political parties in the government and others from the same party fighting it, the stage is set for some additional problems to arise. What can make the situation worse is that all these recent events are taking place at a time when parliament is not in session. The elected representatives of the people are thus denied an opportunity to debate and reflect on the implications of the recent changes in the incumbent government.

On balance, however, the prime minister had no choice but to put his house in order in anticipation of the peace parley on the Middle East. There will be an occasion for parliament to deliberate the issue of war and peace at the end of the tunnel. No one is seriously entertaining the thought of ramming the results of the projected peace negotiations down the throat of the people or their elected representatives.

King Expresses Faith in Cabinet's Ability

JN0610073391 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited the ministry [Prime Ministry] last night and met the Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri.

His majesty the king also chaired over a part of the cabinet session, and briefed the ministers on the latest developments in the region, the changes the world is passing through, and the latest efforts being exerted to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement based on the international legitimacy.

His majesty the king also talked about the circumstances through which the kingdom is passing at all levels, and the need for a consistent national effort based on a democratic path.

His majesty the king expressed his appreciation and faith in the cabinet and its ability to shoulder its responsibilities to achieve the kingdom's object towards a better future. His majesty the king praised the Jordanian stand behind these objectives.

Meanwhile, the prime minister expressed his appreciation and gratitude and that of the cabinet for his majesty the king's directives.

Islamic Jihad Statement on Anderson Reported

NC0710112491 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1050 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization [IJO] has announced that it gave permission for the interview with U.S. hostage Terry Anderson to help move the serious process of finding a comprehensive solution to the hostages issue and to honor the committment it made to released hostage John McCarthy to allow the detainees to send letters to their families.

The IJO announcement came in an Arabic typewritten statement delivered to the CNN bureau in Damascus. The statement followed the video tape sent to the same bureau that included a message by U.S. hostage Terry Anderson. In the message, Anderson stated that his captors had told him that there will be very good news about the hostages soon. Anderson called on everybody to cooperate because the time for negotiations is over. He stated that all hostages must be released—not just the Westerners but the hundreds of Arabs in al-Khiyam and Israeli detention camps as well.

Fadlallah Views Resolution 425, Resistance

NC0510065991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that UN Resolution 425 is listed in Article 6 of the UN Charter, which dictates that it will be implemented through mutual consent [taradi], not by force.

Touching on U.S. recognition of Lebanon's borders and Resolution 425, his eminence wonders if there is anything new in this resolution and the U.S. recognition. He maintained that the decision to separate Resolution 425 from the Middle East crisis is not new, because all Lebanon has obtained are mere promises in return for halting the resistance's operations and disarming it for one year, at the end of which the Americans will consider pressuring Israel to withdraw from the occupied strip.

His eminence asked what guarantees Lebanon would have regarding Israel's withdrawal if the resistance disappeared. 'Allamah Fadlallah described the current stage as more serious than that of the 17 May Accord. He said if Lebanon sat at the same negotiating table with Israel, it would be like a lamb sitting with a wolf.

Possible Release of Bodies, Detainees Reported

NC0510062391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Citing sources concerned with the hostage and detainees issue, the magazine AL-BILAD reports that some bodies and detainees held by the enemy will be released within the next few days. The same sources added that the enemy will hand over bodies of 15 resistance men. Those might include the bodies of the martyrs of the naval operation carried out by the Islamic resistance off the al-Sarafand coast in the south during which the resistance men destroyed an enemy gunboat.

Lubrani on Israeli Conditions for Releases

NC0510104091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Israel, according to Uri Lubrani [coordinator of Israeli Government activities in Lebanon], today refused to release any Lebanese prisoner before it obtains sufficient information on the fate of its soldiers and MIA's in Lebanon. Lubrani said that his country will not make any further concessions in this regard before knowing the fate of its soldiers, because the information that so far has been obtained is insufficient and inaccurate.

Hizballah, Amal Meet on Resistance, Hostages

NC0610072691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi has received an Amal Movement delegation led by Minister Nabih Birri. The delegation comprised Ahmad al-Ba'labakki, Muhammad 'Ubayd, and 'Ali al-Khalil. The meeting was attended by His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general; Haj Husayn Khalil, Hizballah political bureau chief; and His Eminence Shaykh Khidr Nur-al-Din and Haj 'Abd-al-Hadi Hammadi, political bureau members. The talks focused on domestic and regional developments.

In a statement after the meeting, Minister Birri said talking with the brothers in the Hizballah leadership and with His Eminence Brother 'Abbas al-Musawi is a very natural thing, particularly during the present stage through which Lebanon, the region, and the Muslims in general are passing. As is known, we are in a month that could be called the month of the international conference. It is also known that the approaching peace will be, at best, an American peace, which could effect Lebanon in particular. He added: In view of all these things, as well as the almost daily Israeli acts of aggression against the south, particularly against the steadfast and struggling villages, it was very natural to seek such a fraternal meeting to discuss these matters and see how these schemes could be confronted. We hope we will be able to render a service to our homeland and country, he added.

Responding to a question, Birri said what is going on now is not a subject that concerns the Shiites or the Muslims alone, but a national and public matter, and the issue at hand concerns the south. It is not just an Islamic issue, it is a national, Arab, and Islamic topic and one which concerns all the Lebanese. He added: Such meetings also fall within the context of attempting to confront these conspiracies.

Regarding the outcome of the three Lebanese leaders' visit to New York, Birri said the U.S. draft letter [of assurances] contains an explicit and clear attempt to link

the Israeli withdrawal issue and the implementation of UN Resolution 425 [as heard]. In other words, what was required was the implementation of Resolution 520, and this is something we are against. He added: The cabinet discussed the subject and drafted a reply letter rejecting this matter. He reiterated his refusal to have Lebanon enter into negotiations at the international conference.

Answering another question, Birri said that resistance and the need to escalate it are always on our agenda. It is our daily bread and one of our rights under international laws, the UN Charter, and all international norms. The right of resistance is sacred to those whose land is under occupation. Birri noted that Israel does not want a solution to the hostages issue before the international conference convenes.

For his part, the Hizballah secretary general said that coordination with the Amal Movement to confront Israel is the main topic, whether during bilateral talks or among the brothers in the joint operations room. We believe that in light of the settlement conference, the main target at this stage is our nation in general and the resistance in particular.

'Abbas al-Musawi stressed that the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers and its recommendations and the U.S. President's recent meeting with the three Lebanese leaders, as well as the issues raised during this meeting, suggest that there is a true conspiracy against the resistance to extinguish its flame. He pointed out that it is natural that the answer to such a serious and immense conspiracy will be to step up jihad actions and reactivate the joint operations room. He added: These two issues were among the most important topics discussed during this meeting.

Regarding the issue of hostages and prisoners, the Hizballah secretary general stressed that the recent step made by Israel was insufficient and must be completed by the Zionist enemy.

Amal Leader Cites Timeframe for Hostage Release

NC0610134291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Islamic Amal Movement Leader Husayn al-Musawi expects an American hostage to be released within two days, or three days, or a month [as heard]. He affirmed that only the parties concerned know the time, and there is no specific date for that.

In a press interview published today, he added that what is certain and proper will be for Israel to free another group of the hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners, whose release is being demanded by the kidnappers, before a Western hostage can be freed.

Al-Musawi Addresses Released Prisoners

NC0610114391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Hizballah today held a ceremony in al-Rasul al-A'zam Mosque to honor the detainees Israel recently released. Speaking at the ceremony, Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi vowed to continue to work for the release of the rest of the detainees and the bodies of martyrs and to continue resistance against Israel.

He voiced regret because the Army did not bear its responsibility in facing the Israeli acts of aggression and noted that the soldiers are victims of cowardly decisions. He criticized the state's failure to act to free the detainees in the occupation's prisons. He noted that the United States considers the detention of nine Americans a big issue while there are thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons.

He said: We are being ignored in our own country. When we arrest an Israeli soldier who has attacked us, the matter concerns all of humanity. He said the Arab nation has retreated, and here it is making a unanimous decision to surrender and wants to attend an international capitulation conference. He added that 'Arafat has sold Palestine through the Palestine National Council resolutions in Algeria.

At the end of the ceremony, al-Musawi distributed medals on the released prisoners. Several Lebanese and Palestinian party delegations and a group of clergy attended the event.

Current Conditions, October 1973 Compared

JN0510142891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The latest reports from the occupied Arab territories affirm that enemy authorities are about to establish more settlements in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip, and that a plan was drawn up to settle Soviet Jews in the Golan Heights and raise the number of present settlers from 15,000 to 40,000 Jews at the cost of $200 million. Yitshaq Shamir announced that Israel would not return the Golan Heights. A number of ministers and generals, including Ehud Baraq, chief of staff of the Zionist army, also have emphasized this stand.

Those following developments in Israel will clearly see that the current feverish settlement process, the Zionist tyranny, and the Zionists' rejection of peace remind us of the period that preceded the outbreak of the October liberation war in 1973. Following the June aggression in 1967, the Israelis displayed excessive arrogance, belittled Arab capabilities, considered the Arabs only fit for defeat, and rejected every call for peace and recognition of rights until the breakout of the October war, whose glorious anniversary we have been celebrating these past few days. That war came to strongly shake the pillars of Zionist society and open the eyes of many in Israel and the world to the facts.

Today, the same picture has developed. The enemy's government rejects peace and the U.S. initiative, and is doing everything it can to undermine the conference called by the United States and the Soviet Union. Moreover, that government has meet the sincere Arab intentions with a series of serious acts of hostility, such as establishing settlements in the occupied territories, altering their cultural and historic characteristics, provoking the Arabs daily over their most sacred feelings, committing aggression against their sanctities, and organizing a campaign of annihilation and expulsion of the Palestinian people.

It is clear that Israel's leaders have been and are still captives to their racist ideology, their aggressive plans, and their expansionist ambitions. They also believe that the Arabs cannot confront them and their plans, and that an Arab collapse is inevitable because of the Arabs' fragmentation and differences. In fact, the Zionists are making a mistake, just as they did in the past. The October war surprised them in 1973, destroyed their arrogance, and dissipated their delusions about their invincible army, which would have been conquered if the U.S. Army had not instigated an airlift to rescue them. He who looks into history and learns lessons from it will discover that history is full of surprises. The crusaders were defeated and Palestine was restored to its owners.

The Arabs have shown true readiness for peace, and Syria and its leader, who launched the great October liberation war, have also voiced sincere readiness to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement in the region. Syria's pursuit of just peace is a policy that has been ongoing since 1970. In return, Israel's aggressive policy has not changed.

Israel is indifferent to all the Arab peace intentions and all the international efforts, and it does not respect UN resolutions and the world's will to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East based on justice and the right to self-determination. Not a single day passes without the Israeli Government displaying increased hostility and arrogance. Not a day passes without the Israeli Government stressing its determination to devour the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. However, devouring these Arab territories is not as easy as the extremist Israeli leaders imagine, because it will cause Israel much ordeal and pain, and at that point it will be too late for Israel to regret.

While giving a chance to international efforts, and the U.S. efforts in particular, to deal with the abnormal and serious situation in the Middle East and to implement UN resolutions on the question of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, and while they expect the international community to put an end to Israel's rebellion against international legitimacy and bring an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people, the Arabs believe in the sanctity of peace and stress, at the same time, that they will never bow to escalating Zionist hostility. They also view the great October war as a lighthouse which guides their steps. The rights of a nation, which is determined to struggle until the elimination of aggression, will not be lost.

Afghanistan

Five Founder-Members Quit Democracy Movement

BK0710012091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0109 GMT 7 Oct 91

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 7 (AFP)—He is probably unaware of it, but Afghanistan's former king Muhammad Zahir Shah, living in exile in Rome, is at the center of a row in his war-torn country's first democracy movement.

Five of the original founders of the Movement for Unity, Freedom and Democracy in Afghanistan (MUFDA) have quit the organisation founded less than three weeks ago, charging that it was promoting a royalist return.

Poets Muhammad Shah Wasef-Bakhtari, Ahmad Zia-Rafat, and Nasrullah Partap-Naderi; essayist Abdul Ghafur Poya-Faryabi, and psychiatrist Muhammad Burna-Asefi were signatories to the movement's original declaration which called for a transitional government to steer Afghanistan out of the war.

"The leadership of such a traditional government is to be undertaken by a trustworthy pivotal personality who enjoys national and international prestige and who will be sanctioned by the majority of the Afghan people," the declaration had proclaimed.

No names were mentioned in the document to suggest prospective candidates for the daunting task, but in subsequent press interviews some prominent founders came up with Zahir Shah's name, sparking off the row.

Zahir Shah, who turns 77 on October 15, has lived in Rome since his reign was ended by a 1973 republican coup led by his cousin, Muhammad Daoud.

He has widely been seen as a potential rallying point for peace after 13 years of war between the Soviet-backed Kabul government and mujahedeen resistance factions fighting for its ouster.

The five MUFDA dissidents, in a statement delivered to AFP, described the movement—including themselves in a wry touch of self depredation—as a "bunch of intellectuals out of touch with the masses."

"We demand to know when and by whom were we endowed with the right to associate phrases and appelations such as 'trustworthy pivotal personality'....to one particular element.

"Aren't our assertions in this regard nothing but a manifestation of predeliction, of intellectual exhibitionism and a symptom of ill-will towards the objectives set forth in the MUFTA declaration," they added.

MUFDA had claimed at its founding news conference that it was wedded to no political figure or ideology, but dedicated to the search for peace and committed to the ideal of democracy.

It claimed to represent the "silent majority" of Afghanistan squeezed between warring sides.

By openly proposing Zahir Shah's candidacy to head a prospective interim government, pro-king elements had displayed hypocrisy, the MUFDA defectors said.

"Had we had moral courage, or if we had had a sound and forthright conception as to the general content and strategy of MUFDA, we should have put forward the name of the particular element we had in mind ....in the declaration," the group of five said.

"But, conversely, we not only lacked the courage to reveal our inner intentions and objectives, but also irrealistically assumed jihad positions and standpoints," they said.

The jihad (holy war) reference appeared to be to the declaration's description of the resistance fight against the Kabul government as a "great opposition movement" which had gone stray because of a lack of rebel unity.

The group of five said they were disassociating themselves from the movement but had no inclination to form another organisation.

That differences existed among the founders on a role for the former king was evident at the press conference where its formation was announced, but the group who split away appeared then to see their varying perceptions as no bar to sitting on the same platform.

Rahnaward Zaryab, the British-educated president of the Afghan Writers' Association who helped found MUFDA, said he did not find "any concrete reason for them leaving the movement."

Zaryab, 47 and a prominent figure in Kabul's intellectual circles, unabashedly champions the ex-king's return as the one sure way of bringing peace to Afghanistan.

But he said no one wanted a return to the monarchy.

"We mentioned the king's name because we believed we should not be ambiguous about what we want," said the writer who likens MUFDA to Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement in Poland.

"It is not our goal that Zahir Shah should again be king," he said. "Let him come, let peace come, then the people will decide in elections who will govern them."

MUFDA has not registered itself as a society and has no membership roster, and Zaryab said the five leaving was no setback.

But the fact that 14 people could not stay together on the same platform for even a month has done no good here for the image of the group which came into existence for the avowed purpose of working for national unity in a war-divided country.

Reportage on Continued Fighting in Gardeyz

Suburbs Bombed; Mojehedin Shell City

BK0610143491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 6 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas shelled Bala Hishar fort in beseiged Gardeyz setting it afire amid continual heavy bombing of rebel positions by Kabul jets, the resistance-run MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency said Sunday.

An unspecified number of mojahedin were killed or injured in the air attacks, the agency said.

MIDIA, which said Saturday that the mojahedin were ready to enter Gardeyz from the southern side after six days of fighting, gave no indication of any impending thrust into the garrison city in its latest release.

Some rebel sources in northwestern Peshawar, the base of mojahedin factions in Pakistan, said the "carpet" bombing by Afghan government planes might be holding up the push into Gardeyz.

The agency, which is run by the resistance government-in-exile in Pakistan, said the mojahedin had killed 20 soldiers and wounded 25 in operations in the Said Karam district near Gardeyz.

MIDIA claimed the mojahedin had destroyed two planes when they rocketed the Bagram military airport Saturday, also causing damage to the runway.

The agency said several soldiers from Bagram had defected and joined the mojahedin.

Forces Retaliate 'With Heroism'

LD0610164891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Paktia Province pushed back the attacks of the extremists and Pakistani militarists in the surroundings of Gardeyz with heroism and bravery and have inflicted heavy losses. According to a report by the BAKHTIAR Information Agency [BIA] military section, retaliatory attacks by the brave Armed Forces of the country crushed a number of the extremists, including ringleader Hazarat Mohammad and a number of Pakistani militarists and Arab mercenaries. The extremists' four vehicles carrying arms and ammunition, two armoured vehicles, a BM-12 system, a gun, three strong positions, and thousands of shells for light and heavy weapons were destroyed.

A ringleader and a vehicle belonging to the fundamentalist group of Khales were captured yesterday near Gardeyz by the Armed Forces. Quoting groups stationed in Pakistan, the VOA also reported in its morning news bulletin that 16 people, including two commanders of the extremists, Haji Khayer Gol and Hakim Jadran, have been killed and more than 40 people have been injured during the last two days. The report by the BIA military section adds that the the units and companies of the Armed Forces successfully carry out their national and patriotic duties with high combat morale and patriotism and with the all-round cooperation of the brave and heroic tribes and nationalities of Paktia Province. They are ready to foil any type of possible attacks by the extremists and Pakistani militarists. The positions and gathering places of the extremists in Lowgar Province, from where missiles were fired and the peaceful life of our people was disrupted, were attacked yesterday by the Armed Forces. Retaliatory attacks by the Armed Forces also claimed a number of the extremists, including Kochi and six other ringleaders: Toryalay, Said Majid, Jan Mohammad, Nesrullah, Nur al-Rahman, and Abdul Hamid. Their three BM-12 systems, two strong positions, and a large quantity of light and heavy weapon ammunition were destroyed.

Mojahedin Attack Convoy

BK0610154691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Oct 6 (AFP)—Afghan mojahedin have attacked a Kabul government military convoy headed for Gardeyz, capturing 10 vehicles and taking 210 soldiers prisoner, the rebel AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) agency said Sunday.

But some 30 tanks and vehicles managed to reach the garrison city, target of a seven-day old major guerrilla offensive, AIP said.

The convoy was ambushed on the Gardeyz-Kabul highway on Saturday, the agency said. Another resistance agency, MIDIA [[MEDIA INFORMATION OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], made no mention of the encounter.

MIDIA, run by the rebel government-in-exile based in Pakistan, said guerrillas shelled Bala Hishar Fort in Gardeyz setting it afire amid continual heavy bombing of rebel positions by Kabul jets.

An unspecified number of mojahedin were killed or injured in the air attacks, the report said. [passage omitted]

'Extremists' Kill 1 in Kabul Missile Attack

LD0610160891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Surface-to-surface missiles fired by the cruel extremists today killed a Kabul city citizen and 18 others were injured, including women and children. According to a report by the BAKHTAR Information Agency, military section, the injured were immediately transported to hospitals and were taken in for serious medical treatment and observation. The extremists fired 18 surface-to-surface missiles today from the northeast and west on the residential areas of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th

wards of Kabul, which have also caused financial damage to our compatriots. The missiles were of the Sakr type, which have been put at the disposal of the extremists by Pakistani militarists, against all the accepted international norms and standards, for the mass killing and terror of our muslim compatriots and for the continuation of the fratricidal war in the country.

Iran

Musavi-Arbabili Denounces U.S. Regional Role

LD0410164191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1205 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Friday prayers second sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran on 4 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted: Koranic verse] My second sermon concerns the chaotic situation, this great calamity, of American domination and her unrivaled sway over Islamic countries. I do not wish to offer a political analysis of the situation. [sentence indistinct] In my second sermon I want to talk to you brothers and sisters about a religious duty.

A certain situation has arisen in the world, especially in our region. We must call this situation a catastrophe, a disaster for Muslim peoples. The world becoming unipolar, America having no rival, its presence in Kuwait and its forces in the region, the Middle East peace conference ... This conference is in Israel's interest. America has its hand in this situation. The Palestinian people are becoming a historic sacrifice with the assistance of the region's governments. This is the depth and magnitude of the disaster and the calamity. [passage indistinct]

No Muslim, no Muslim with a semblance of Islamic honor in him, will be able to hear of these problems and not be moved. [passage omitted] The Americans came to Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], they saw that they could come [words indistinct]. They saw that they could come to Iraq, to the Persian Gulf, and to Bubiyan Island and now they want to make individual pacts with the Shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf. All of us have had unwelcome guests in the past. We have seen how they go somewhere and pitch a tent and then we have seen what they do—with the women, with the men, with the government. This is a bad form.

Now I want to say, you who have heard the depth of the disaster of the Kuwait agreement and the Bubiyan incident and understand it; you who have heard the depth of the the Israeli conference and the ill-omened hands that have endorsed it and announced their presence.

It is strange that they say it is the last opportunity, and if it is lost it there won't be another. [passage omitted: koranic verses]

Don't ever despair! Don't ever be indifferent; don't ever compromise—seeing the going is tough and invite them to compromise—do not compromise with them. Your position is high. God is with you. Know that God will not leave your actions unfruitful. Your actions will bear fruit. If ever you see them, kill them; capture them; surround them and block their path with ambushes. [15-second break in transmission] They have come here and have pitched their tents. They will never leave here or remain inactive. What I say to you is a duty, a religious and obligatory duty. Muslims must take away their security, just as they have taken security away from Muslims. [chants of God is great, death to America and Israel] By their coming, by their conference, by their sitting in Bubiyan, and by bringing arms, they have dragged the region into turmoil. You cannot see a large, rough, rugged, ruthless, and unscrupulous thief behind your wall, thirsting for you blood, and then sleep in peace. Your sleep will definitely be disturbed. Unless, God forbid, our understanding is somewhat taken away from us. Well, what can we do now under such circumstances. We should not sleep. If they, the Hejaz [Saudi] Muslims, had killed 10 of their soldiers, they would not have dared to come to Kuwait. When they came and saw there was no resistance, they said they came next door to Ka'aba [holy place in Mecca] and nothing happened. Forget about Kuwait, forget about Bubiyan!

It is incumbent on all regional Muslims to attack American interests and take away their peace. [chants of God is great, Death to America, Death to Israel]

What has happened to Islamic integrity and honor? Have they came to a graveyard? If the Muslims do not feel committed and responsible, they would not be considered Muslim if they only prayed. The Kuwaitis, Iraqis, Pakistanis and Iranians should form resistance cells where ever their American interests are, so that they do not even dare to go to the bathroom, or buy a sandwich from the market and eat it, for fear of it being poisoned. They should make life difficult for them. We do not know about classical warfare, but we know about that sort of thing.

If a person is killed in the process he would definitely be a martyr. That is a religious duty. Otherwise for us to sit and say let us see what will become of things, what does that mean? They take the oil, the region, they make servants out of the people. We should not wait for the governments either. The Sabah family has acted correctly according to its own calculations. They say when Saddam attacked us yesterday, who saved my us? It was them. And when we went to Hijaz, who saved our country? Who restored us? That was the beginning. [words indistinct] Then they say if you don't, the same thing will start all over again and next time I will not come to your rescue.

We should not expect the Sabah family and their like not to attend the conference or sign the agreement. Of course, they would. They take their percentage, they are mercenaries and puppets.

If this is delayed even by an hour, it will be too late. The youths, those who have so far proved in the arena that they are capable of it, they should form resistance cells and attack them, their properties and interests, deprive them of their peace and security. And when they are deprived of their security, when they are not safe when eating, safe going to (?the toilet), or walking down the street, the Muslims will definitely be triumphant, and God has promised this. [crowd chants] [passage omitted: Koranic verses]

Velayati: 'Good Trend' in French Relations

LD0610114391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] French Foreign Ministry advisor Mr. Alain Vivien met with Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, today. Bilateral ties and important international issues were discussed in the meeting.

Mr. Vivien remarked in the meeting: The French Government believes that relations between the two countries have reached a very good level and that they must now be enhanced at a greater speed. He added: We attach special significance to the view points of the Islamic Republic of Iran in terms of important international and regional issues.

The French Foreign Ministry advisor added: We believe that the Persian Gulf region cannot be monopolized by any power. He stated: We support the secretary general's statement with regard to the resolution of the Afghan issue.

Mr. Velayati, having welcomed the French Foreign Ministry advisor's proposal with regard to the continuation of contacts and exchanges between Iran and France on important international and regional issues, pointed to his recent talks with the French foreign minister in New York, and said: Coordination and exchanges of views began some time ago between the two countries and that is highly productive, in view of the changes and very rapid developments around the world.

Remarking on the good trend of relations between the two countries, Mr. Velayati ascribed it to the positive outlook and resolve of the two governments. He added: Historical and cultural ties and the understanding of the two countries' people constitutes the backbone of these relations.

Confirming the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy based on establishing good-neighborly relations, Mr. Velayati discussed the developments in the Soviet Union and other important regional issues.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr. Velayati said: With regard to the Afghan issue, the Islamic Republic of Iran earnestly endeavors that it be resolved peacefully and in the interests of the Muslim and mujahed people of that country.

U.S. Regional Presence, Military Pacts Denounced

NC0410051091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Sep 91 pp 1, 16

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "Holding Islam in Check"]

[Text] Tomorrow a military treaty will be signed between the United States and Kuwait according to which Kuwait will place air and sea bases at U.S. disposal. Turkey has consented to the U.S. Rapid Deployment forces [RDF] (known as the Poised Hammer) being stationed near the border of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and has extended its term.

During the Persian Gulf war, the United States frequently reiterated that it had no intention of establishing a permanent military presence in the Persian Gulf and would withdraw its forces on the war's end.

The United States, however, continues to extend its presence in the region on various pretexts. The continuation of Saddam's regime in Iraq is the most important excuse lending legitimacy to its military presence in a country which neighbors the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A little while ago, to prepare world public opinion for the military agreement, it was announced that Iraq had invaded Bubiyan island. Following this, Kuwait announced that it had agreed to provide the United States with a military base! This U.S. propaganda maneuver came in the wake of an incident in which some Iraqi trawlers were seized by the Kuwaitis. Passengers, including women and children, were declared POW's.

Such baseless reports are disseminated sporadically in the Kuwaiti press in order to legitimize the U.S. military presence. The U.S. agreement to allow Saddam's government to continue to preserve its military presence in the region continues. Saddam is capitalizing on this fact to eliminate those who might take over the government be they from the Ba'th Party or the Armed Forces.

The United States refrained from signing any regional security accords prior to the consolidation of its military presence in the region. Gulf Cooperation Council countries did not make any headway in their talks with Egypt and Syria Six plus One and were happy with attractive slogans of cooperation with Iran regarding security.

If the talks for regional security are scheduled to be held after the U.S. military presence has been officially legitimized, what benefits can come from the meeting? The United States has to keep the Persian Gulf region in constant ferment so that it can play its role.

After ensuring its military presence in Iraq and Turkey, the United States began plotting how it could damage Tehran-Ankara relations. In the past few months, the Turkish Government has been taken some reckless actions, such as interrogating and expelling a number of employees of the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy and expelling the Friday imam of the Shiite mosque without

reason. In addition, Turkish forces have occupied part of Iraqi territory. The servile Turkish publications carry articles criticizing Iran every day in the hopes of damaging Iranian-Turkish relations. Until yesterday, these publications had said that the Kurdish dissidents had come from Iraq; now they are saying that they came from Iran!

Is Mr. Ozal oblivious to the dangerous quicksand into which the United States is dragging him?

The two main U.S. objectives in the region are acquiring control of the region's oil resources and reining in Islam.

The control of Iraqi oil profits has been wrested from the hands of Saddam's regime. If the current situation continues, the oil wells in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will meet with a similar fate, even though it may be a more honorable one! This danger threatens the very existence of the OPEC.

The United States is facing serious problems in its attempts to hold Islam in check. First, the regional people are aware of this plan. Their opposition to any domination is heightening, and the consortium of world arrogance has no specific formula for combating it. Military armaments are not capable of stemming the proliferation of the people's awareness and the current world climate is not such that weapons can destroy "thoughts."

Second, regional nations are demanding the establishment of nationalistic and Islamic governments in their respective countries. In this area, the United States, contrary to its allegations of being a champion of democracy, does not want the convocation of free elections and a government based on the opinion of the people in the Persian Gulf countries. Here, it only envisages a controlled democracy. The White House has promised the Zionists that if they participate in the Middle East peace conference it will turn its attention toward Iran, following peace between the Arabs and Israel, and control the wave of Islam.

Current world conditions, however, when even the Muslim-inhabited republics of the Soviet Union are moving toward governments based on popular opinion, how long can the wishes of the Muslims of the region be resisted? How long can delusions of holding Islam in check be entertained?

U.S. Role in Gulf, Pact With Kuwait Viewed

NC0410130691 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Sep 91 p 2, 15

[Editorial: "The U.S. Crisis-Mongering Policy in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Following the decision of the Supreme National Security Council, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive a note on the Islamic Republic of Iran's concern over the news of the conclusion of a treaty of military cooperation between the United States and Kuwait. The Iranian government awaits the Kuwaiti government's response and explanation on the subject.

After the recent developments and the clarification of many of the ambiguities related to the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy for the regional countries, relations between Iran and the southern Persian Gulf littoral states have been gradually improving.

In view of such an understanding between Iran and its southern neighbors and the recent experiences in the region, it seems that countries in the Persian Gulf region would be able to collaborate together for the purpose of safeguarding their own interests and preserving the stability of the region within the framework of a regional security alliance. And this would appear to be the most natural course for the preservation of peace and security in the region and the prevention of future crises in the area.

Considering the combined military, economic and political powers of the countries in the region, it is quite possible that if such an alliance had existed before the occurrence of last year's crisis, Iraq would not have attacked Kuwait and even if it had, the attack would have been curbed in its initial stages at a fraction of the cost in human and financial resources the concerned countries have had to bear as a result of the Western countries' military expedition in the region.

It is a well-known fact that the political, economic and military decisions of any country are related to its national interests. The United States; whose import of crude oil has increased from 5.3 percent (of its total consumption) in 1973 to 13.2 percent in 1991 is greatly dependent on the Middle East oil. Thus is should be obvious that the reactions of U.S. to natural or "manufactured" crises in this area is dictated by its national interests. What is more, the conclusion of military pacts with U.S. will enable that country to influence the regional countries' political and economic decisions including the OPEC resolutions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the other countries in the region have developed very effective cooperative relations both within and outside the framework of OPEC, and naturally the United States realizes that the further strengthening of such relations would not be to its advantage. Production machinery in the U.S. are mostly worn out, and the resultant reduction in the U.S. competitive capability in world markets, specially after the unification of Europe in 1992, will force the United States to renew its production equipment. That will lead to greater need for energy and more dependence on Middle East oil. As such, it could be claimed that the countries in the area are going through a very critical period, and that their decisions will have far-reaching results for the future of the region. And it should be obvious that the present and future interests of the nations in the area will not be served by the presence of

foreign forces which can only throw the region in continual turbulence to ensure their own interests.

Pact's Effect on Iran-GGC Relations Viewed

NC0410134091 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 26 Sep 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Kuwait-U.S. Security Pact?"]

The signing of a 10-year military pact between Kuwait and the United States, has brought security cooperation between Iran and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] under further question.

The idea of a new security arrangement for the region was broadly raised by the U.S. and the western mass media immediately after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait last year. The plan, despite possessing any clear definition, prompted the regional countries, including the strong and the weak, to welcome the scheme and try to play a role. [sentence as published]

The Kuwait-U.S. pact, designed to bolster Kuwait's defenses after Iraq's invasion and seven-month occupation of the tiny shaykhdom, was signed some two weeks ago. It gives American troops access to Kuwaiti ports and allows them to train and conduct military exercises with Kuwaiti forces. U.S. military equipment will also be stored in Kuwait.

The theory of withdrawal of foreign forces and the restoration of security and stability by the countries of the region themselves, is not an idea which can be rejected. But it is an unrealistic plan in view of the nature of the regimes behind such a theory. Similarly, the structure of the reactionary governments of the region is such that casts doubt over the implementation of extensive cooperation.

Yet even the region did not witness the physical presence of the U.S. troops, again this did not mean that the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council had the necessary will and determination. This is obvious in the establishment of new military and security bases in these countries.

The (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council came into being for the purpose of confronting the Islamic Revolution and by this means the U.S. wanted to prevent the revolution spilling over to neighboring countries.

The end of the Iraqi imposed war followed by pressures exerted on Iran by the U.S. either directly or through Iraq in a bid to subvert its governing system as well as Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and drastic changes sweeping the world all served to introduce new conditions in the region.

The Americans raised their plan on new security arrangements for the Persian Gulf while Washington was seeking to take the utmost advantage of universal developments. To this end, making certain countries of the region move in the same direction that the Arab reaction does is something the White House has focused its attention on in the hope of overshadowing the Islamic Revolution.

Under these conditions, to enter into security arrangements raised too far means stepping in a road already chosen by the White House as is evident in the defensive agreement reached between the U.S. and Kuwait which is a member of the (P) GCC.

Reaction to U.S.-Kuwait Pact Criticized

NC0510171691 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Sep 91 p 20

[Taj Mohammad Kazemi commentary: "Ensuring Kuwait's Security or U.S. Interests?"]

[Excerpts] By dragging foreigners into the Persian Gulf region, the rulers of the Kuwaiti shaykhdom are responsible for beginning a series of dangerous games there. They have finally completed the last phase of these games. By signing a so-called security pact with the United States—which has no connection with the region's security—they have laid the foundations of insecurity and instability in the Persian Gulf region.

It appears that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was the main factor that led the Kuwaiti shaykhs to rely on foreign powers and sign the above-mentioned pact. [passage omitted]

By signing this treaty, Kuwait has surrounded the Persian Gulf regional security structure with a mist of ambiguity. The upcoming Six plus One session of the Gulf Cooperation Council's foreign ministers and the Islamic Republic of Iran was to discuss this security structure. Kuwait's unilateral move has undermined the GCC's credibility as a united organization.

It is obvious that this U.S.-Kuwaiti accord will endanger not only the independence of Kuwait, but also that of the entire Persian Gulf region. Among the region's countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran—as the largest country in the region and one that has paid the heaviest price for attaining independence—views this danger very seriously.

The Supreme National Security Council's apprehension over the signing of this treaty and the fact that it told our Foreign Ministry to seek clarifications from Kuwait on the pact's contents affirms the seriousness of this danger. The weakness of our foreign diplomacy's response to this plot, however, has generated doubts which are extremely dangerous in themselves.

These doubts arose when one of our Foreign Ministry's advisers gave an interview to some American correspondents and indicated that Iran agrees with the establishment of individual defense pacts between the Persian Gulf countries and the United States. The foreign minister's meeting with the Kuwaiti amir in the United

States, which took place at the same time that the signing of the treaty was announced, had its own special diplomatic meaning.

The Kuwaiti regime will certainly use this meeting for purposes of justification to its people and to the other countries in the region—to the detriment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's popular position. Similarly, Foreign Minister Velayati's general remarks on the treaty will only add to these doubts. In any case, today—when the soldiers of Iran's number one enemy are stationed on Bubiyan Island to control the Strait of Hormuz at Kuwait's invitation—is it possible to safeguard the Islamic Revolution's lofty ideals with this wishy-washy and tepid diplomacy?

Sri Lanka

MP Joins Dissidents Before Crucial Vote

BK0510141091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Colombo, Oct 5 (AFP)—Another Sri Lankan ruling party legislator Saturday publicly joined a campaign to overthrow the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, swelling the ranks of dissidents.

P.M.B. Cyril, an MP [member of parliament] from the southern district of Galle, attended a massive rally there organised by United National Party (UNP) dissidents to drum up public support for moves to oust Premadasa, witnesses said.

The defection of Cyril, the 12th MP to publicly join the dissidents, came ahead of a crucial no-confidence motion against the government in parliament on charges of arming separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

The vote, sponsored by the opposition and backed by a powerful section of the ruling party, is expected to be debated Wednesday. The opposition has expressed confidence in bringing the government down.

The government for its part has said it will defeat the motion and would even give time allocated for its business in parliament for a debate.

Premadasa himself is facing impeachment proceedings on a wide range of misdemeanours including bribery, corruption, treason, clandestinely arming Tiger guerrillas and attempts at covering up murders.

Colombo Confirms Rejection of Impeachment Motion

BK0710115091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] The speaker, M.H. Mohamed, has rejected the resolution of impeachment which was aimed at removing the president from office and which created much controversy within the country. The speaker has conveyed his decision to President Ranasinghe Premadasa that he has treated the resolution under Article 28-2 of the Constitution to remove the president from office as having ceased to be entertained by him. The speaker has also informed the president that he has notified the member of parliament, Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike, who gave notice of the resolution, that having inquired into the matter the speaker is of the view that the resolution does not have the required number of valid signatures and that accordingly the resolution will not be proceeded with. News agencies as well as international radio stations have already announced the rejection of the impeachment resolution to remove the president from office.

Five 'Major' LTTE Bases Destroyed

BK0610113491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Meanwhile, five major LTTE bases were destroyed and the backbone of terrorist operations in the jungles of Amaparai District has been broken in a combined Army, Air Force and STF [Special Task Force] commando operation over the past three days. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the combined operation destroyed major enemy bases at Kanjikudichchiaru and (Lahugalle) in the Amparai District. The sources said that one of the bases had training facilities for 300 terrorists, including firing ranges and obstacle [word indistinct].

Ground troops backed by strong air cover storming the camps also found and destroyed antipersonnel mines and landmines and recovered foodstuff, boats, and instruction manuals. The sources said that the terrorists suffered heavy casualties when the bases were being targetted by Air Force planes in preparation for the ground troops to move in. As the ground troops moved in, the terrorists manning the five bases fled and are now being pursued by government troops.